



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts and
Commerce and Consumer Protection
Tuesday, February 6, 2024
3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
S.B. 2617, RELATING TO RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

My name is Iris Ikeda, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Division of Financial Institutions (DFI). The Department offers comments on this bill.

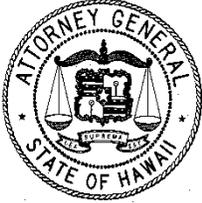
The purpose of this bill is to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest, requires a foreign principal that owns real property that was acquired before this measure's effective date to register the ownership with the Attorney General, and authorizes the forfeiture of real property or an interest in real property that is owned or acquired unlawfully.

The Department appreciates the innovative thinking of this bill to open the housing market to citizens of United States, including Hawaii residents, and the curb the purchase of real property by foreign nationals. The Department would like to offer some

unintended consequences with the proposal. As it relates to a mortgage loan for real property, a lender offering a mortgage loan to a foreign principal, that the lender knows is secured by Hawaii real property, may be aiding and abetting the misdemeanor criminal violation established under the law. Also, the lender may be subject to an Equal Credit Opportunities Act violation for discriminating against a foreign national.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this bill.

[Continue text here.]



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2617, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ON
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 **TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 224 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Alison S. Kato or Bryan C. Yee, Deputy Attorneys General

Chairs Keohokalole and Lee and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) respectfully opposes this bill and requests that the bill be held.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit foreign principals, which includes foreign corporate entities, foreign governments and officials, political parties of foreign countries and their members, and persons domiciled in foreign countries who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States, from directly or indirectly owning, having a controlling interest in, or acquiring by purchase, grant, devise, or descent any real property or interest in real property in Hawaii after July 1, 2024, other than a de minimus interest, as defined. The bill specifies two exceptions: (1) a foreign principal may acquire real property for a diplomatic purpose that is recognized, acknowledged, or allowed by the federal government; and (2) a foreign principal may acquire real property on or after July 1, 2024, by devise or descent, through enforcement of security interests or the collection of debts so long as the foreign principal divests itself of the real property within three years. A buyer of real property or an interest in real property must provide an affidavit attesting that the buyer is not a foreign principal.

The bill provides that the Department may initiate a civil action in circuit court for the forfeiture of real property or interest in real property in Hawaii owned or acquired by a foreign principal. Additionally, the bill imposes criminal penalties against any foreign

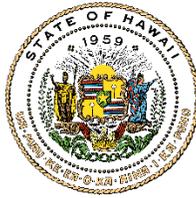
principal who purchases or acquires real property or any interest in real property in Hawaii, and any person who knowingly sells real property or any interest in real property to a foreign principal in Hawaii. The bill also requires that a foreign principal that directly or indirectly owns or acquires real property or any interest in real property in Hawaii before July 1, 2024, register the ownership with the Department by January 1, 2025, or be subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 per day and that the Department may place a lien against the unregistered real property.

The Department has grave concerns regarding the constitutionality and legality of this bill and the potential for this bill, as written, to subject the State to litigation and to cause the State to incur substantial monetary liability. Among other things, the Department has concerns grounded in the Commerce Clause of article I, section 8, clause 3, of the U.S. Constitution; the Equal Protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and article I, section 5, of the Hawaii Constitution; the Takings clauses of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and article I, section 20, of the Hawaii Constitution; the Due Process clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and article I, section 5, of the Hawaii Constitution; article I, section 2 of the Hawaii Constitution; and the federal Fair Housing Act. Many of these provisions, among other things, would require the State to satisfy onerous means-ends legal analyses in litigation and potentially require the State to pay fair market value for the taking of property to an unknown number of individuals and entities.

The Department requests that the bill be held. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
And
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024
3:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2617
REALTING TO REAL PROPERTY**

Senate Bill 2617 proposes to 1) prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state or any interest in real property in the state, except a de minimis indirect interest; 2) define foreign principal; 3) require a foreign principal that owns real property that was acquired before this measure's effective date to register the ownership with the Attorney General; 4) require a buyer of real property to provide a signed affidavit attesting that the buyer is not a foreign principal; 5) authorize the forfeiture of real property or an interest in real property that is owned or acquired unlawfully; 6) establish penalties; 7) declare that the appropriation exceeds the State general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025; and 8) appropriate moneys. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments on this measure.**

The Department appreciates the intent of this measure and does not take a position on its merits. However, the Department notes that this bill may impact current lessees and future lessees. This bill appears to include interests in real property less than fee simple within its scope, such as leases and easements, including dispositions issued by the Department. While it does not appear that the Department has many lessees that would qualify as "foreign principals" under this measure, they may be impacted if this measure becomes law. As an example, any violation of the provisions of this measure, such as failure to register, would also subject the disposition to termination for failure to comply with all applicable federal, state and county laws. Furthermore, it does not appear that

a foreign principal would be eligible to obtain a State lease after July 1, 2024. Additionally, even if a foreign principal may legally own and hold property acquired prior to July 1, 2024, it may prevent them from obtaining a future easement from the State for access, utility or encroachment purposes intended to benefit that property.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
HAWAII CHAPTER

February 5, 2024

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair
Committee on Transportation
and Culture and the Arts

RE: **SB2617- Relating to Real Property**
Hearing date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair Lee, and members of the committees,

Mahalo for allowing NAIOP Hawaii to submit testimony in **OPPOSITION** to SB 2617 – Relating to Taxation. NAIOP Hawaii is the Hawaii chapter of the nation’s leading organization for office, industrial, retail, residential and mixed-use real estate. NAIOP Hawaii has over 200 members in the State including local developers, owners, investors, asset managers, lenders, and other professionals.

SB 2617 provides for the following:

1. Prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest.
2. Defines and requires a foreign principal that owns real property that was acquired before this measure's effective date to register the ownership with the Attorney General.
3. Requires a buyer of real property to provide a signed affidavit attesting that the buyer is not a foreign principal.
4. Authorizes the forfeiture of real property or an interest in real property that is owned or acquired unlawfully.

NAIOP Hawaii stands in opposition to this measure which would seek to prohibit any foreign principal from owning property in Hawaii. Prohibiting foreign ownership of property in Hawaii may result in severe economic impacts by preventing outside investment in affordable housing, retail, healthcare, office buildings and other commercial projects that will serve our community and local families for decades to come.

NAIOP Hawaii is concerned with potential negative economic impacts SB 2617 would have on development of all product types in Hawaii. Development in Hawaii is already among the most heavily regulated entire country which stifles economic growth, and SB 2617 would make Hawaii one of only a few states to disallow foreign investment and ownership of property. This

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair
February 5, 2024
Page 2

change would create additional barriers to do business in our state and would negatively impact the level of interest in future investment in Hawaii and put jobs and revenues at risk.

NAIOP Hawaii understands the intent of the measure, however, we are concerned that this measure may have broader economic impacts which may prevent the creation of housing and reduce economic growth in our state. Accordingly, we respectfully urge you to defer SB 2617.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reyn Tanaka', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Reyn Tanaka, President
NAIOP Hawaii

LATE



Hawaii Credit Union League

Your Partner For Success



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Honolulu, Hawaii 96826-2097
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Fax: (808) 945.0019
Web site: www.hcul.org
Email: info@hcul.org

Testimony to the Senate Committees on Transportation & Culture and the Arts;
and Commerce and Consumer Protection
Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 3:00 PM
Conference Room 224

Comments on SB 2617 - Relating to Real Property

To: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committees

My name is Stefanie Sakamoto, and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Credit Union League, the local trade association for 47 Hawaii credit unions, representing over 864,000 credit union members across the state.

HCUL offers the following comments on SB 2617, Relating to Real Property. This bill would prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest, defines foreign principal, requires a foreign principal that owns real property that was acquired before this measure's effective date to register the ownership with the Attorney General, requires a buyer of real property to provide a signed affidavit attesting that the buyer is not a foreign principal, authorizes the forfeiture of real property or an interest in real property that is owned or acquired unlawfully, establishes penalties, and declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

We understand that the intent of this bill is to limit the ownership of real property to US citizens in order to open more housing opportunities to Hawaii residents. However, we have concerns that because financial institutions offer financing for the purchase of real property, we would be in violation of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act if we were to turn down a potential borrower under these parameters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this issue.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:12:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Makekau	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As a kanaka maoli I support this bill and no outside investors should Be allowed to buy here. This includes military. You must be a resident and establish residency to buy here.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:05:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlee Kamakaala-Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:10:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymond Barros	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha As A Native Hawaiian I Support This Bill For

To Long Foreigners Have Been Buying Land & Desacrating Burials Enough is Enough

LATE

To the Honorable Members of the CPN/TCA committees,

I am writing to express my strong support for the "Long Overdue Bill" introduced by Senator Brenton Awa, which seeks to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State of Hawai'i. This legislation is a critical step towards preserving the cultural heritage, community fabric, and economic stability of our beloved state.

The essence of Hawai'i is rooted in its people—especially the Native Hawaiian community, whose ties to this land run deep. However, the influx of foreign investments in real estate has driven property prices to unprecedented heights, placing homeownership and even rental options beyond the reach of many local and native families. This trend not only exacerbates the displacement of our communities but also erodes the cultural identity of Hawai'i.

The "Long Overdue Bill" addresses these concerns head-on by establishing clear regulations that prioritize the well-being of Hawai'i's residents over external economic interests. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property, except for a de minimus indirect interest, this bill aims to curb speculative buying that inflates the cost of living and contributes to the housing crisis.

Moreover, the requirement for foreign principals who currently own property in Hawai'i to register their ownership with the Attorney General and the mandate for buyers to provide affidavits confirming they are not foreign principals are essential transparency measures. These steps will ensure compliance and facilitate the enforcement of the law, protecting our communities from unlawful acquisitions.

The bill's provisions for the forfeiture of unlawfully owned properties and the establishment of penalties for violations are necessary deterrents against circumventing these regulations. Furthermore, the declaration that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025, and the appropriation of moneys, demonstrates a commitment to the enforcement of this legislation and the protection of Hawai'i's interests.

In conclusion, the "Long Overdue Bill" is a testament to our collective responsibility to preserve the integrity and sustainability of Hawai'i for current and future generations. It is a necessary measure to ensure that the spirit of aloha and the welfare of Hawai'i's people are placed above the interests of foreign investors. I urge you to support this bill and stand with the residents of Hawai'i in safeguarding our home.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Ikaika Vares-Young

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:43:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Shizuma	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I stand in support of SB2617.

We all know the price of housing continues to increase, pricing many of our local families out of Hawaii. While this bill does not state the extent of current foreign investors purchasing real property in Hawaii, I believe this is a step in the right direction to lower the demand for housing in Hawaii, helping to decrease the price of homes, making it more affordable for local families to purchase a home and stay in Hawaii.

I applaud the authors and introducers of this bill for taking steps in the right direction to improve the housing market and make it affordable once again for local residents.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Keoni Shizuma

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:20:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pohai	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I am in full support of SB 2617 because I believe we should not accommodate the interests of foreign parties without first accomodating the people of Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:28:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seanne Napualokenani Andrade Igne	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am in complete support of this bill!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:34:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Koch	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Fully support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:14:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De Mont Kalai Manaole	Testifying for Hoomana Pono, LLC	Support	In Person

Comments:

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** this bill. It's about time!

Just on Hawaiian Home Lands we have foreign investors making a quick buck, conniving methods of getting dollar a year Homestead Leases sold to the highest bidders, while cutting waitlisters out of the picture. **See**

https://www.youtube.com/live/moB8gOAwHyk?si=jHTURILj_eYhwuYP

From the arrival of foreigners, Hawai'i has had a "FOR SALE" sign embedded on our shores: Robinson claimed Ni'ihau, Elison claimed all, except for 55 Hawaiian Homestead Lots, of Ni'ihau, & of course now, Zuckerberg thinks Kaua'i belongs to him at the expense of the 'Ohana Kuleana Land owners.

It's time we put up a new sign that reads: **HAWAI'I IS NOT FOR SALE!!!** Let's bid Aloha 'Oe to #TeamLally and it's ilk!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:18:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Kealakai	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Members of the Legislature,

My name is Anela Kealakai, a Native Hawaiian mother, writing to you from the depth of my heart and the roots of my ancestors' land. As stewards of this 'āina that nurtures our families, culture, and spirits, I stand in strong support of the bill prohibiting the purchase of real property by foreign principals.

Our islands, known for their beauty and spirit, have attracted attention far and wide. While this admiration is appreciated, it has also led to a surge in foreign ownership of our lands, driving up prices and pushing the dream of home ownership out of reach for many local families, including Native Hawaiians. This bill is a beacon of hope for us, aiming to preserve the essence of Hawai'i not just as a paradise for visitors but as a home for those who have been its keepers for generations.

Cultural Preservation: Our connection to the land goes beyond the physical; it is a bond that is spiritual, cultural, and ancestral. Foreign ownership often overlooks this connection, prioritizing development over preservation. By supporting this bill, we ensure that our sacred sites, cultural landscapes, and historically significant lands are protected and preserved for future generations of Native Hawaiians to learn from, live on, and cherish.

Affordable Housing: The influx of foreign investment has inflated real estate prices to levels that are unattainable for the average local family. This bill represents a critical step towards leveling the playing field, giving Native Hawaiian families a fair chance at owning a home and securing a future for their children in the land of their ancestors.

Economic Stability: While foreign investment is often touted as a boon for our economy, it frequently benefits a select few while the broader community faces the consequences of increased living costs and gentrification. By prioritizing local ownership, we can foster an economy that serves the needs of Hawai‘i's people first, ensuring that the wealth generated from our lands benefits those who call it home.

Environmental Stewardship: Our lands are not merely plots to be bought and sold—they are living entities that sustain our people and our way of life. The stewardship practices passed down through generations have allowed these islands to flourish. This bill acknowledges the importance of maintaining these practices and protecting our environment from unsustainable development driven by external interests.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the long-term impacts of foreign land ownership on our islands and our people. This bill is not just about regulating real estate transactions; it's about affirming our commitment to preserving Hawai‘i's cultural heritage, ensuring economic justice for its residents, and safeguarding our environment.

For my children, for all our keiki, and for the future of Hawai‘i, I ask for your support in passing this crucial legislation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:20:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

This is common sense! How can you be okay to keep allowing people from outside of Hawaii to own anything. If you do not support this bill, the lose the Native Hawaiian's suffer is on your hands.

Oh, honest Americans, as Christians hear me for my downtrodden people! Their form of government is as dear to them as yours is as precious to you. Quite warmly as you love your country, so they love theirs. With all your goodly possessions, covering a territory so immense that there yet remain parts unexplored, possessing islands that, although new at hand, had to be neutral ground in time of war, do not covet the little vineyard of Naboth's, so far from your shores, lest the punishment of Ahab fall upon you, if not in your day, in that of your children, for "be not deceived, God is not mocked." The people to whom your fathers told of the living God, and taught to call "Father," and now whom the sons now seek to despoil and destroy, are crying aloud to Him in their time of trouble; and He will keep His promise, and will listen to the voices of His Hawaiian children lamenting for their homes." -Queen Liliuokalani*

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:41:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kasey Tabar	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Strongly Support!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:42:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Valdez	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose this bill. We should restrict from any foreigners from purchasing land in the state of Hawai'i. Jobs here are scarce unless you have a college education and get paid well to purchase a home. But when you have investors that only buy it to say they have a "home in Hawaii" but use it as only a vacation home is not right. Our state should look more into something for the people of Hawaii meaning the Hawaiian people and the kamaainas that was born here or at least lived here for more than 5 years. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. Thank you

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 2:53:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Emery	Testifying for Hawaii First Realty LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is an international destination with many foreign principals doing business here or living here part time. This is an artificial attempt to control housing that will not solve Hawaii's housing crisis.

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

RE: Senate Bill 2617, Relating to Real Property

HEARING: Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair Lee, and Members of the Joint Committees:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i and its over 11,000 members. HAR **opposes** Senate Bill 2617, which prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest. Defines foreign principal. Requires a foreign principal that owns real property that was acquired before this measure's effective date to register the ownership with the Attorney General. Requires a buyer of real property to provide a signed affidavit attesting that the buyer is not a foreign principal. Authorizes the forfeiture of real property or an interest in real property that is owned or acquired unlawfully. Establishes penalties. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025. Appropriates moneys.

This measure, if passed, will likely experience similar legal and constitutional challenges to Senate Bill 264 (2023) which became law in Florida. SB 264 introduced two sets of land ownership restrictions. The first set applies to foreign principals associated with specific countries (China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela under Nicolas Maduro, and Syria). Foreign principals include foreign governments, certain corporate and political bodies, and individuals from these countries who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Members of these groups cannot acquire agricultural lands in Florida or own real property within ten miles of a military installation or critical infrastructure facility in the state. The second set of restrictions specifically targets individuals and entities connected with China. Both sets include additional requirements similar to this measure.

In May 2023, a lawsuit was filed in *Shen v. Simpson*¹ to challenge the constitutionality of SB 264. The plaintiffs argue that the law, which restricts and

¹ SHEN v. SIMPSON, 4:23-cv-00208, (N.D. Fla.)

<https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/67412885/shen-v-simpson/>

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prohibits land ownership, targets them based on race, alienage, and national origin, violating the Equal Protection Clause, amongst other arguments.

Additionally, the Department of Justice has filed a Statement of Interest² in this case supporting the plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction, that SB 264 **violates the Fair Housing Act** which prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), familial status, and disability **and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.**

The Statement of Interest also states that, "these unlawful provisions will cause serious harm to people simply because of their national origin, contravene federal civil rights laws, undermine constitutional rights, and will not advance the State's purported goal of increasing public safety. Plaintiffs are likely to succeed on the merits of these claims challenging the provisions of SB 264 that restrict and prohibit land ownership. Accordingly, the United States supports Plaintiffs' motion to enjoin Defendants from implementing and enforcing these provisions."

Given the broader scope of this measure compared to the challenged Florida law, it may face similar constitutional challenges.

Additionally, foreign investment can help with jobs and our economy. For example, international investment has helped with Hawaii's affordable housing challenges. South Korean developer SamKoo built Kapiolani Residence and The Central in the Ala Moana area in which 60% of the units were designated as affordable for households earning between 80% to 120% of the Area Median Income. In addition to housing, there are numerous other sectors with foreign-owned companies that also employ workers and support our economy, such as hotels, retail, restaurants, financial, engineering, insurance, etc.

For the foregoing reasons, HAR opposes this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

² SHEN v. SIMPSON, 4:23-cv-00208, (N.D. Fla. Jun 27, 2023) ECF No. 54
https://www.justice.gov/d9/2023-06/soi_simpson-final.pdf



"Advancing the Commercial Real Estate Industry through Education, Networking and Advocacy"

Committees: SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Date: February 6, 2024
Time: 3:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 224 and Via Remote Access
RE: SB 2617, Relating to Real Property

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 2617, Relating to Real Property. This bill prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest. It defines foreign principal and requires a foreign principal that owns real property that was acquired before this measure's effective date to register the ownership with the Attorney General. It further requires a buyer of real property to provide a signed affidavit attesting that the buyer is not a foreign principal and authorizes the forfeiture of real property or an interest in real property that is owned or acquired unlawfully.

We are the Building Owners and Managers Association of Hawai'i (BOMA Hawai'i) testifying in **comments** on SB 2617.

We understand that several states' legislatures have introduced and, in some cases, passed legislation that restricts foreign ownership of land within their states by governments, individuals, and/or entities associated with certain identified "*foreign adversaries*" of the United States. While the bills often include other "foreign adversaries," we understand that most of the bills are particularly focused on China and Chinese investments. SB 2617, however, is not limited to foreign adversaries and appears to include all foreign interests in its real property ownership restrictions. Our trade organization has not yet taken a position on this measure, but we wish to serve as a resource for information and collaborate with policy leaders in exploring the burdens as well as the benefits of foreign real property investment in the state of Hawai'i.

BOMA Hawai'i is a non-profit trade association dedicated to advancing the commercial real estate industry through education, networking and advocacy. Please consider BOMA a resource to policy makers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Jamie Barboza
BOMA Hawai'i Government Affairs Committee Chair

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:51:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gene Harrington	Testifying for Biotechnology Innovation Organization	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) respectfully opposes SB 2617.

Our foreign-owned BIO members are developing biology-based tools to enable American agricultural producers to be part of the solution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the challenges posed by climate change. These new technologies combined with modern agricultural techniques and sustainable farming practices enhance productivity and support Hawaii's food security goals. Sometimes these investments require owned real property. SB 2617 would limit advancements and opportunities to strengthen agriculture in Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 1:48:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanara Caey Richmond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Chanara Richmond, House District 42, strongly support SB 2617. Please protect Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:10:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 11:08:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As I write this testimony on February 2, 2024, news organizations are reporting that a U.S. appeals court has blocked Florida from enforcing a ban on Chinese citizens owning homes or land in the state against two Chinese nationals who were in the process of buying property when the law was adopted.

A panel of the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said on Thursday the individuals were likely to prevail on claims that Florida's ban violates a federal law governing real estate purchases by foreign nationals.

Based on this information, I urge you to defer this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 5:42:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaneaia Perkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB2617. I have been a Hawai'i resident all 30 years of my life. Since joining the work force full time after attending college, as well as getting married and having a double income household, I have always had multiple jobs just to afford the rising cost of living in Hawai'i. It has been a struggle for both my husband and I to afford renting a home to fit our family of 4 let alone having an opportunity to buy one. Yet, many of the working class families make too much to qualify for any type of government assistance.

Being able to buy a home in the place we have lived our entire lives is almost impossible because the current housing market does not coincide with the average wages of Hawai'i residents. We simply cannot compete with the foreign entities that constantly outbid us for real estate. The job of the State of Hawai'i is to take care of its residents FIRST, which has not been the case since January 17, 1893. In so many cases, we have catered to the deep pockets of foreigners not just in real estate but in every aspect of Hawai'i's economy all the while sucking our OWN residents dry with ridiculous taxes and fees (a \$500/year car registration to name one).

Restricting foreigners from purchasing real estate in Hawai'i will not only narrow the market of homebuyers in Hawai'i, but it will allow for a more competitive market for Hawai'i residents. The current policy that allows foreigners to monopolize and exploit Hawai'i's land and resources for profit has created an immense economic crisis for local families who live and labor here. SB2617 must be passed to put an end to this unjust exploitation of Hawai'i's 'āina and to see a thriving Hawai'i economy. This is not a foreign concept and is seen in many other countries and also states to protect the interest of its own people. Hawai'i must do better in prioritizing Hawai'i's own people versus prioritizing the highest profit and this is just one step in doing so.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:58:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Full support SB2617

Mahalo,

Tamara Paltin

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:45:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelei Tancayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. And yes, it's about TIME we put Hawaii residents first!

Mahalo,

Michelei Tancayo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:38:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Ferreira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This is a Bill that is long overdue. Other countries in the past such as Trinidad and New Zealand have had to pass similar laws and forfeiture clauses as foreign nationals from much better economic climates came into their countries buying up properties as investments and effectively locking out their own citizenry from ownership opportunities. Only citizens of those countries may purchase and own real estate. This may depress the local market and goes against free trade and an open market in a Capitalistic society but housing and energy are two places where Government restrictions should be in place to help their own residents and citizens in prospering as a society, not providing investors with profit vehicles to the detriment of the market area they are investing in.

Michael Ferreira

Makakilo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:03:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawai'a Naihe	Testifying for Ho'akeolapono Trades Academy and Institute	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are a workforce development program created to support the locals in Hawaii, and we support this bill to stop foreigners from purchasing and owning land in Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:57:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesley Texeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in full support of SB2617. I am born and raised Maui, Hawaii with a young local family. This bill would help myself and my family to one day be able to buy a house here. It's always been my dream to grow old in Hawaii and raise my children. This bill would help in the process to helping local people stay in Hawaii.

Mahalo!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:14:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanaloa Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. There's not enough property for outsiders to be buying vacation homes and inflating property values pricing Native Hawaiians out of paradise.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:58:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared Piimauna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The people of Hawai'i need this. This is an opportunity to accomplish something that should have been done years ago. Please move forward with this bill!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:58:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Franchesca Wantland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:59:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaila Wilkinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Lāhainā, I strongly support SB2617. I think it is crucial for the future of Hawaii to ensure that Hawaiian lands stay in Hawaii hands. As for the opposition's argument that the bill is unconstitutional, the taking of the Kingdom of Hawaii was unconstitutional and this bill will prevent further injustice to the people of Hawaii. Locals and Hawaiians are simply being priced out and there needs to be bills such as these to prevent even more people from leaving Hawaii forever.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:59:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617.

Respectfully submitted,

Corinne Solomon HD20 resident

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:03:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Yvonne Alvarado Support Bill SB2617

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:04:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blake Soares	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support sb 2617

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:05:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick Takahashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill hawaii lands should not be sold to foreigners.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:05:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramiah Bacon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I humbly come before you to ask you to grant this bill. My maiden name is Ramiah Shim. My great great grandfather , Mook Shim, came to Kula from China in the earlier 1900s. My family's lineage has been here in Maui on my Grandfather and Granmothers side since the beginning. This bill has been on my mind for years and years. I always wondered why we couldn't ever "protect" our land from outsiders coming in and investing in property , just to resell for profit. Please approve this bill. This bill will go down in history if approved. Please do this for Hawaii and for the local people who have been here, for generations . We want to be able to raise our children and their children children's here as well. This is our land, our home. We know best for our home and land . Please approve this bill for the Hawaii, local people. Thank you.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:06:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nakia Nae'ole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2617, in its current status and language. As a lifelong resident, multi-generational, and lineal descendant of the indigenous peoples of these islands the time could not be more important than it is now to have laws like this that assist in keeping the market to purchase a home fair and in the reach of people like myself, my family, and others in similar situations like ours.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:06:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kona Llamas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Its the right thing to do. Support the people who voted for you and help give us a chance to own our own home the place our families grew up in.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:07:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Gillard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Foreigner's should not be able to purchase land here. Stop allowing foreigners to come in with their money and take the land away from the locals. Locals can never compete with foreigners. The State Attorney General needs to wake up and realize the Constitution is for Americans not Foreigners. They have no constitutional rights in America, Their rights are only in their home country. Some countries do not let us buy land, since we are foreigners to their country.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:09:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rene Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support restricting foreign land ownership in Hawaii. The lack of affordable housing available to local families is only exasperated by properties being bought by people and companies from other countries. Please protect our limited lands.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:10:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shavanna-Britney Santiago	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill because it gives the people of Hawai'i a chance to stay home and raise future generations here. We are being priced out of our home lands. The State is so far behind on increasing our pay while allowing foreign entities to calibrate the cost of homes, which are so far beyond our reach we are forced to leave. There is no reason ANY state representative would allow the cost of living or cost of homes to drive their local people out. If that is the case, which it has been for the past 30 years, NONE of you belong representing OUR best interest.

This Bill gives us a chance at least not to cheat our way with increasing wages, but in making it difficult for foreigners, non-hawaii residents to purchase homes that should go to us. That way we don't need to be wasting more funds on "low-income" housing that we all don't even qualify for anyways.

This Bill gives me a chance to raise my children where my grandparents and their grandparents lived and thrived.

I support this Bill for myself and my family to stay in Hawai'i.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:10:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsie Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! As a kamaaina and kupa aina of Oahu, I urge you to pass this bill. I don't consider how I will be affected by this bill, but what it will do for my keiki and moopuna. So much of what makes Hawaii special is thinking about our community and our future. Our kūpuna put agricultural, economic, and social systems into place that sustained our people for generations. In short, because of colonization and greed, we lost so much. Now is our chance to work toward giving the people of Hawaii a fair chance. It will not be the end-all, but it's a huge step. Mahalo for your time and consideration. Aloha wale no.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:10:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Hernandez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a local boy, born and raised in central Oahu, it is my dream to be able to stay home and raise my family here. Rising costs have made it more and more difficult for my wife and I to provide for our three children. We are homeowners, but we would love to be able to upgrade one day and let our children have their own bedrooms and a big yard to play in. Competition from foreigners has caused the real estate market to be global instead of local. We need to do what is right and help our local people stay home and be able to afford buying homes.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:10:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiele Muraco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a native Hawaiian born and raised on O'ahu I fully support SB2617 and the efforts to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest. I have single handedly witness homes near my house where I grew up being bought sight unseen for costs over what they were worth. Situations like this have left us with illegal vacation rentals, a neighborhood where we have no community, theft, and safety of general concerns. Beyond that it has made it nearly impossible for locals to not only be able to purchase a home in their homelands but even making renting a home where we grew up nearly impossible.

Mahalo,

Kiele

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:10:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Kepa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill 2617.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:11:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenani Gramberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this Bill.

Mahalo,

Kenani Gramberg

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:11:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimie Korenaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Kimie Korenaga and I am in support of SB2617. I was born and raised on Oahu. I have 1 child and both myself and spouse consider ourselves to be on the higher end of the "middle class".

My family came here as immigrants in the late 1800s and have worked to acquire a few properties that, as our generations multiply, are occupied as main (and only) residences. We have not afforded investment properties and I have a dream to be the first in my family line to do so. My spouse is Native Hawaiian, his mother being 100% Hawaiian, a dwindling percentage. As a resident whose money goes back into the immediate economy on a daily basis, who works in a non-profit sector to serve my community, I believe that people like us should have more opportunities to not only purchase investment properties but to have the opportunity to purchase our own homes and build generational wealth for our children as our population exponentially rises.

I hope to be able to purchase our own home as I currently live with family. Taking openings in the market away from foreign investors would open up more opportunities and potentially keep rates lower for local people like me who don't want to have to move to the mainland to have our own home to raise our own families in. I can only dream of being able to continue to live in the community I serve and grew up in, to raise my daughter here, and to stop being a burden on my multi-generational family home.

Please make more spaces for locals like me to grow and invest in our own communities by supporting SB2617.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:12:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler kinnaman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a third generation resident of Hawaii it's sad to the fact that I need to look at moving away as an only option to own a home. In todays market buying a new or decent home is out of the option and that's due to the fact of home prices being driven up and it needs to stop. I want my daughter to be raised here but if things keep going as they do there's no option but to move

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:14:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexa Helge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. Foreign persons and entities should not be able to buy up our lands, especially while we face a housing crisis and more Hawaiians live outside of Hawai'i than in it.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:14:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darrell Keama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. Please stop foreigners from buying up all the property here in Hawaii. I need to stay here in Hawaii where I was born and raised. MAHALO!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:16:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Giles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this, because it saddens me that so many locals have been priced out of their dreams and hopes, because foreigners pay high prices for real estate. Let's support the local community!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:17:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doreen Kupau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:17:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Kresge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:18:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TIM REIMER	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No foreigners, should be allowed to accumulate Hawaii properties, they should be reserved to and limited to Hawaii residents,,Residents, are being forced to leave Hawaii because of foreigners purchasing houses, sometimes before they are even offered for sale ..I, support Brenton Awa's , motion, one hundred percent..

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:18:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapena Liu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha no,

My name is Kapena Liu. I am in full support of bill SB2617. As Kanaka, and as local people, we are constantly being priced out by foreign buyers/investors. In my short 25 years of life alone, I have seen immense changes. I am certain continuing on this trajectory, we whose families have been here for generations will cease to have a presence in our own homeland. Please consider our voices. Mahalo.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:19:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is long overdue. No more should we sell off stolen land. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. Shame on all of you that supported the selling of Hawaiian land. No more should native Hawaiians have to move away from their home land

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:19:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaina Bachstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too many Hawaiians and people from Hawai'i are fleeing their home, the place they belong because foreign entities buying property and land make it impossible to survive here. Survive is not thrive.

My daughter will not grow up with any of her cousins because many of my extended family members are unable to support their families here and move to the continent where they have a chance.

My family continues to search for a home regardless of continually being beat out by cash offers that we cannot compete with.

change needs to happen now, or it may never. Hawaii will loose all her people and with it her aloha spirit and everything that makes us who we are.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:20:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailee Soong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and think it's long overdue to be passed. My vote is for the land and the people, and outside buyers belong to neither. Do the Pono thing for once. Ua Mau ke Ea o ka Aina i ka Pono.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:21:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sarah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

foreigners buying up land and property is making it hard for us born in Hawaii hard to compete to buy and own - hard to compete when many of these foreigners are corporations and paying cash

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:22:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nick P	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:23:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is unconstitutional to allow foreign buyers to purchase land and real estate in our great nation. Our legislators should be putting the best interests of its own citizens first. This is the will of the people.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:23:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cara Lynne Mejia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. We need to stop foreign investors from buying up precious Hawaiian real estate. While our children and grandchildren are moving to the mainland in droves.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:23:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this. Outside foreigners shouldn't be allowed to buy.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:24:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiva Tatofi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support keeping our lands in non foreign hands and promoting this aina to locals and people from here or who actually live here!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:24:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Mattson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the stopping of foreigners buying land here in Hawai'i.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:25:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nakana Makekau Jugoz	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting my testimony in support of Senator Awa and his introduction of SB2617. I believe this is just one of the many ways government can support the rehabilitation and revitalization of kanaka maoli and their culture, ideals, and ability to remain/return to their homeland. Any opposition to this bill would only show greed and a complete disregard for Hawaii and its people, culture, and finite resources.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:26:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Timoteo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617 because it provides native Hawaiians with the opportunity to buy homes in their birthplace, aiming to address concerns about outsiders negatively impacting our Aina.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:26:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warrene DeGuzman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am a Native Hawaiian, born and raised in Hawai'i and I am 100% in favor of Bill SB2617 prohibiting foreign and non- residents from purchasing property here in Hawai'i Nei. Mahalo, Warrene DeGuzman

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:26:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felicia Ah Tou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Welina mai kākou,

I am writing this testimony in support of SB2617. This bill is incredibly important for the sustainability of our land, culture, and survival as a people. Being a Hawai'i native I know first hand how crucial it is to have family that has land. If you don't, you're forced to live away from home so that foreigners can reap the benefits while we struggle being away from our homeland. Make it easier for Hawaiians to own land by not allowing foreigners to purchase land in Hawai'i. Many other great nations already do this (I.e. New Zealand). Help keep our keiki safe by being in their homeland.

There is only a win win pushing this bill through. It's for our people.

Mahalo,

Felicia Ah Tou

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:26:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Awakea Artates	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support foreign buyers buying property here in Hawai'i. We have limited space and resources here and we need to stop outsiders from buying and pimping our lands for profits while us natural citizens are being push away because of the rising prices due to issues and problems directly related to this type of land purchases. We need more solutions to keep making land more available and affordable for our people and make it a priority before us Kanaka become another statue for visitors and their learning of "what once was.." Foreign buyers will only continue the displacement of us natural born citizens, us kanaka, who make this place special. It will soon say "Pau kanaka, Pau Aloha, Pau Hawai'i" below the statue of kanaka if this continues.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:26:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlyn Gresham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should be first focusing on housing those who are residents of Hawai'i. Not those looking to make money off of an investment, or a vacation home.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:26:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manu Akana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am all in on this bill and would like to fully support this bill

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:27:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felicita Isabella Garrido	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To those in power,

I humbly ask that you please support this bill SB2617 to stop foreigners from purchasing land in Hawai'i as it is not beneficial to the people or natural environment of Hawai'i. When these foreigners come here, they have one goal in mind and that is to make money. They don't care about the negative impact that they have on our island home because to them it's just an opportunity to make themselves rich off of land they have no connection to. I beg you to please do the right thing for the future of Hawai'i. Thank for your time,

Felicita Garrido

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:28:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rayna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe Hawaiian lands should stay in Hawaiian hands. The people of these islands cherish the islands as a lifestyle wanting to raise generations. The out pricing that's happening where only foreign buyers are able to afford our paradise. It needs to have some kind of stoppage.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:28:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shalee kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This was a LONG OVERDUE bill that the people needed. I wanna say I'm not against foreigners coming to hawaii I'm against those who come here to buy up our land, homes and property to profit from simply because they can. Mean while families like mines and many others can barely afford to put food in there homes or even keep there utilities on who dream to buy there own, who struggles just to save, who struggles just to qualify! And this is the RIGHT step in the RIGHT direction of making it possible for us locals.

I SUPPORT THIS BILL !

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:29:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilima-Lei Macfarlane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators and Committee Members,

My name is Ilima-Lei Macfarlane and I am testifying in strong support of SB2617, which would help to stop foreign investors from buying property in Hawai'i, and in effect help to dispel further displacement of Native-Hawaiians and local families. As a former resident of Hawai'i and Kanaka Maoli, I am part of the diaspora of Native-Hawaiian people—nearly 55%—who live outside of Hawai'i. I can speak for many that we wish nothing more than to be able to return home back to the islands, but the impossible cost of owning a home coupled with the cost of living has made that dream unattainable for most. While foreign investors are not the single reason why local families are being driven out, it is a massive part and you as our lawmakers have a historical opportunity to make things right. This is the start to returning families home and the people back to their land. Know Hawaiians, know Hawai'i. No Hawaiians, no Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:29:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nahknee mfgb	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legal purchase of property in Hawaii by non-residents. As a concerned citizen and resident of Hawai'i I believe that allowing non-residents to freely acquire real estate in Hawaii poses significant risks and potential negative consequences for both the local community and the state as a whole.

Hawaii's unique cultural, social, and environmental characteristics make it a highly sought-after destination for individuals seeking a piece of paradise. However, opening the door to unrestricted property ownership by non-residents could lead to several issues that may adversely impact the well-being of the islands and its people.

First and foremost, there is a genuine concern that the influx of non-resident property buyers could drive up housing prices, making it increasingly difficult for local residents to afford homes. The current housing market in Hawaii is already facing challenges in terms of affordability, and allowing non-residents to purchase property without restrictions may exacerbate this issue.

Moreover, unrestricted property ownership by non-residents may contribute to the phenomenon of "ghost towns" where properties are purchased as investments or vacation homes but are left unoccupied for the majority of the year. This can have a detrimental effect on the sense of community, local businesses, and the overall vibrancy of neighborhoods.

Additionally, there is the potential for cultural and environmental degradation if non-resident property owners do not have a vested interest in preserving Hawaii's unique heritage and natural resources. Without a strong connection to the local community, non-resident property owners may be less inclined to participate in or support initiatives aimed at preserving the islands' rich cultural and environmental assets.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the proposal to allow unrestricted property purchases by non-residents in Hawaii. It is crucial to strike a balance between encouraging economic growth and protecting the interests of the local community and the state's cultural and environmental heritage.

Thank you for considering my concerns, and I hope that the regulatory authorities will prioritize the well-being of Hawaii's residents and the preservation of its unique character in any decision-making process.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:30:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Binney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Bill 2617 as it seeks to inhibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state of Hawai'i. This would help in keeping Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands and prevent local families from getting pushed out of their homes.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:30:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Vedo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617!!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:30:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sunnie Kupahu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am native Hawaiian and I do not want foreigners buying land in Hawaii. I see so much native Hawaiians that live on the beach, parks, brush. Hawaiians that are moving to the mainland continent. So much suicides because of loss of jobs and their homes because the rich forineers keep on buying land, air bnb a , building monster homes or rich foreigners driving up property tax's. Making it so hard for Hawaiian to buy a price of land and to build on. Land in Hawaii is getting g fewer and fewer. If you buy a home in Hawaii I you need to live in it. O more to lcc properties putting iit under a business freeing up that person to buy more properties on a lcc. No mor cooperations buying property. No to foreign buyers, corporate LCC homes under businesses, no more multiple land purchase. Keep Hawaiian land in Hawaiian hands. Help public lands go back to Hawaiians. Keep tourist in hotels and no more air bnb. If you buy land in Hawaii you must live in it. Hawaiians First. Let's say goodbye to people like president obama and Mark zukinburg and wealthy like A&b and the Robinson family and any other rich person who want to buy islands.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:30:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sasha Doorish	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this Bill SB2617 that will stop foreign entities from purchasing real estate in Hawaii. We are a small tight nit island community that have a very special way of living and Aloha for one another. We treat the Aina with love and respect for the culture and values that are important to Hawaiians and locals alike. Foreigners are buying up land all over Hawaii, which have negative impacts and change the way we live and the relationship with the land here. They have no respect, they do not care for the way people live in Hawaii, they just see Dollar signs and look to rape the land of all its beauty and bounty. Hawaii has been a housing crisis for a long time, it gets worse every year. We do not need outsiders coming in to buy more land for their hotels, mega mansions, personal play grounds and basically are sick of seeing acres upon acres going to foreigners.

It's time you politicians put the people of Hawaii first, not the money and what the rich can do for you and your status in life. Soon Hawaii will be an island chain full of foreigners and strangers who do not perpetuate or embody the Hawaiian culture or spirit.

Think about the future generations and where they will live. You should be working hard to provide the Native Hawaiian community with the land they rightfully deserve, not sell it off to the highest bidder.

Again, I am in Support of this bill that would limit or stop foreigners from buying up the land of Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:31:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristie-Lee P Oshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. Hawaii should have had this bill in place many years ago. Mahalo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:31:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Palencia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill for our children to continue to afford to live in Hawaii. Selling the land off to rich foreign investors will continue to drive up the cost of real estate. Enough is enough!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:31:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill!! Local residents only!!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:32:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradley Bryan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a 17th generation kanaka maoli and 2nd generation Hawaiian American I strongly support this bill. Our real estate should not be allowed to be purchased or monetized by foreign individuals, businesses, or corporations. The people and citizens of Hawaii come first. Shame on the Attorney General for opposing this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:32:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reyna Pila	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the "Long Overdue" bill SB2617 to stop foreigners from buying property in Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:32:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support including outside money from coming into the state to purchase Hawaiian housing; especially for investment purposes.

please make it impossible from people buying home/land here unless they are living here and contributing to society.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:32:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shawna kahoopii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo for allowing me to voice my concerns. Hawaii has had a long history of foreigners coming to Hawaii. But recently I've noticed a lot of Chinese and other foreign investors coming in and buying land.

Hawaii won't be Hawaii without Hawaiians. And right now we're being priced out and displaced from our homelands. Please stop allowing foreigners to occupy our lands and displace us. Do what's right for our future generations and keeps Hawaiians in Hawaii.

mahalo!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:32:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Hope	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian mother of three boys I want my sons to live here when they grow up. They are still in middle and elementary school, However, we can see how the cost of living has gone up along side of housing. How can our community and our state thrive, if housing is priced for foreigners who are not contributing or a part of our community or our state? Empty luxury condos are standing in Honolulu today owned mostly by foreigners. Price and fill them with people who are a part of our community our state. Ua mau ke ea o ka aina I Ka pono. Hold firm and do what is right for our community and state of Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:32:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashly Vida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because Hawaii's people will not be able to thrive if foreigners keep buying up all the land.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:33:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a legal Citizen of the United States and born & raised Kanaka on the Hawaiian Homelands on Oahu. I am in support of this bill 100%. We should stop foreign purchases of our land and property. Take care of our own people here. We lost countless small buisnesses & landmarks on our island due foreign purchasars that now are just a distant memory & either a tourist attraction or an UNAFFORDABLE condominium. Why do we need countless luxury condominiums that do not house our majority local people or land purchased by foriegners to build GIANT HOMES to rent to multiple family UNITS. Enough is Enough.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:33:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Kahale Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No foreign property owners!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:33:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
La Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native of this land I support this bill. We should never have been put in this disposition in the first place. The native people of Hawai'i should be prioritized because it is their birth given right in which has been over looked and rewritten to exclude us and displace us. We have cultural and a spiritual connection to the land where others may never understand. We need to right the wrongs now for our future natives or there will be nothing left for them and our people we be the thing of the past. If you value Hawai'i I am not speaking from a money stand point but if you truly value Hawai'i how can you not make a stand to put this in motion and help the native strive in their own home land. This is our home, every other race can return to the ancestral lands as we continue to fight for ours. This is for our future kanaka and generations to come.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:33:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adriel Lam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation. Foreign governments, political parties, and organizations under foreign government and foreign political party control should not be owning real property in Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:34:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moanahiwalani walker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am only 18 and I am still constantly living in fear and worry that I will one day be forced out of my 'āina because of richer foreigners. Especially in my home, Ko'olauloa, many of the homes are sold for a price no local can afford, and is then sold to people who do not live here to be their summer house or to rent out to tourists. I should not be scared of this. I should be able to afford and buy a house to live in my home islands.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:34:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zahz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2617

I fully kāko‘o this bill and everything it stands for. As someone who works in the Real Estate industry this is an incredibly important step in the right direction to ease demand on Hawaii Real Estate. For everyone looking to purchase real estate there should be an application process with a complete ban on foreign purchase and proof of at least 5 years residency, native Hawaiian descendency, or a descendent of Hawaiian Kingdom citizenship. In reality, according to international law, all Real estate sales in Hawaii should be conveyed through Hawaiian Kingdom law.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:34:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cody Ana-solomon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's crucial that the bill is passed to prioritize our people in Hawaii. As a Kanaka who comes from a bloodline of nine generations, I strongly support this bill. It's disheartening to see outsiders using Airbnb to make a profit while our people struggle to afford housing. The recent tragedy in Lahaina highlights the urgent need for homes for our people, not for outsiders. Other countries have successfully implemented similar bills to protect their citizens, such as Canada, which put their people first. It's time to stop letting outsiders buy within our homes and put our people first.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:34:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Passion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian born and raised in Hawaii, I support this law 100 percent. Tourist always comes here to Hawaii and buys houses that they use as vacation rentals for other tourists when it can be for us people from Hawaii. Also houses should be cheaper for Hawaiians because most of us can't afford to live here.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:34:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Shevling	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Alana Shevling ,I oppose bill 2617. Hawaii has to take action and provide for the people of this state. We live in place where resources and house are limited and we need you to make sure our community has the ability to have housing before outside /forigen entities have the ability to purchase real estate . 1-5 year full time state residency should be required to purchase ANY home and corporations /and or individuals from out of country should be banned from buying more than a certain amount of property or homes . Please help our community solve this housing crisis . I oppose this bill , I hope you will as well.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:34:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Tamaribuchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of bill SB2617 relating to Real Property.

Thank you.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:34:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Azerdee Kamealoha-Vierra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Azerdee Kamealoha-Vierra. I am a Native Hawaiian and I support this bill. As someone who was born and raised in Hawai'i. I would like to see a positive impact on Hawai'i's housing crisis. Our own people have to move out of state just to be able to afford a home. Adding to, Homeless encampments and shelters is at its max. Due to scarce housing resources. All because outsiders are able to purchase land/homes and not have to be a resident of Hawai'i to do so. Because of this the housing crisis that we have been dealing with is just getting worse with time. We need to make a stop to this and allow the people of Hawai'i to have a voice. Our people's needs and wants should come first before those that don't have any ties to Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Azerdee Kamealoha-Vierra

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:34:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Homesteady Ohana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2617 that in which prohibits foreign interest to purchase real estate.

mahalo

Malani Alameda

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:34:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawena Haugh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in **STRONG** support of SB 2617 and want to prohibit foreigners from buying property in Hawai'i. We need to prioritize Native Hawaiians and local people who have been here for generations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:35:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill and Brenton Awa. People in Hawaii can barely even pay for rent, let alone be able to even buy a house for ourselves! Stopping foreigners from buying will help stop the cost of housing going up. These people don't even live in Hawaii..they buy, and rent it out and the rent is ridiculous. Why not lesson the amount and allow Hawaii BORN people to be able to buy a home. Were only a tiny tiny portion of the WORLD and were one of the most expensive!! That is UNFAIR to the people of Hawaii. Please look at it from our point of view. Families are moving away because of prices! Please don't let it continue to happen.

mahalo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:35:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madelynne Nehl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protecting our valuable resources should be our top priority. Allowing foreign buyer to seize control of Hawaiian lands puts our people and resources at risk. It is unconstitutional to not have the government be of the people and for the people of the land they are representing. The people have long desired the protection of our land from foreign interests that have no care for the management or mistreatment of these precious resources. I strongly support this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:35:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mitchell T Abad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I stand in support of SB2617. We all know the price of housing continues to increase, pricing many of our local families out of Hawaii. While this bill does not state the extent of current foreign investors purchasing real property in Hawaii, I believe this is a step in the right direction to lower the demand for housing in Hawaii, helping to decrease the price of homes, making it more affordable for local families to purchase a home and stay in Hawaii. I applaud the authors and introducers of this bill for taking steps in the right direction to improve the housing market and make it affordable once again for local residents. Mahalo for your time and consideration

Mahalo

Mitchell T Abad

Mililani, HI 96789

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:36:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ana Giliberti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The cost of living in Hawaii is astronomical, and housing is scarce causing many people to leave Hawaii due to lack of affordability. We need to allow local residents to be able to afford rent and utilities and having a shot at living here. It is heartbreaking to have to take our children away from where they were born and raised because of greed. Please help local residents and families!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:37:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blake kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please help native Hawaiians stay in hawaii!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:39:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josten Giang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello All -

I am a lifelong resident of Oahu who moved to Washington State for college and returned home. I frequent Washington State every few years to visit friends. I would like to attest that my friends who have children and a similar income are able to afford a single-family home, travel yearly, and send their children to private school.

It's expected that Hawaii is more expensive compared to Washington State. As I look around, my friends in Hawaii either live at home or rent because they are unable to purchase a home at market price because they make too much for affordable housing but don't make enough to purchase a home. These same friends would live a higher quality life elsewhere but need to remain home to care for their elders.

In addition, I have many highschool friends who permanently moved to Los Vegas and other affordable areas across the continental US. Why did they move? They can't afford to live here any longer. Both Kanaka and Locals, who have their own families and don't have the luxury of living at home or affording rent in Hawaii.

I mention these things because it seems like prices go up and those who can afford to buy new homes aren't local. The military have VA loan benefits which is deserved for their service. They do contribute to the increase in housing prices. But it's the interest that foreign investors have that really kill us. First, they aren't citizens of the US and secondly, they have zero interest in helping Kanaka and Locals. They continue to buy, develop, and price people out of their homes at an accelerated rate.

It is my hope that Senator Awa's bill proposal is met with positivity and an interest in putting Hawaii's people first. This bill is needed to keep Hawaii, Hawaii.

Thank you

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:39:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makamae Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:39:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Seems like a no-brainer. Not sure why this hasn't already passed. We should always put affordable access to homes for locals ahead of the overwhelming foreign entities that our dominating our real estate market. Prevent mass exodus of Hawaiians to the mainland from their homeland. Aloha.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:39:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shantell SanAgustin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Local Hawaiian resident who is tired of our people of Hawaii who can't afford to live in there island home born and raise we have to move to the mainland why because we can't afford to live in the Hawaiian Islands. My son 23 years old has a family to support and can't find any rental because the rent it high. He went looking for a decent home and home prices are sky rocket too high to afford a mortgage. Why because politics have controll over this. Now if we work with each other like some of our politics who are trying to help us let's get this bill done and don't sell to foreigners or peoples from the mainland who are buying homes in Hawaii as investments. Stop driving local people out of their homes heee in Hawaii, IMUA.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:38:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roderick Yu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen of the US and a resident of Hawai'i, I fully oppose this bill. The amount of foreigners who own property in Hawai'i is quite miniscule and does not affect the cost and scarcity of housing.

Foreigners who own property in HI or in any state already contribute a hefty amount in taxes and fees, and contribute to the financial resources of that particular state. Did our past ali'i disallow malihini to buy property before?

This bill is merely just a level of "grandstanding" or showboating by this particular senator who raised this bill in order to obtain attention.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:39:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wil Pascua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because this ensures our local people can stay here in Hawaii... and also gives our future keiki a chance to live here. Thank you.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:40:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryce johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support banning foreigners from buying land in Hawaii. Let's get closer to making Hawaii affordable for local residents.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:40:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn patterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not let foreign people buy out hawai'i, and keep hawai'i for our keiki,otherwise we will have no hawai'i!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:40:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tasia collier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a kanaka maoli who doesn't qualify for Hawaiian homes I will never be able to buy a home in my native land without something changing. The housing crisis is unreal in Hawaii right now and it has got to stop. Foreigners should be second to Hawaiians. End of story. Native and indigenous peoples should come first. We deserve to live in our ancestral lands with our people and not be forced out because it's a "paradise. I support this bill while heartedly. It's about time!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:40:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Golden Kahumoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:40:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill is simple. First, is it constitutional? And second, is it necessary?

As far as constitutionality is concerned, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Wisconsin limit foreign investment in real estate based on the number of acres, while Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Oklahoma ban foreign ownership of certain land completely. So it seems that limitations on real estate investing by foreign investors exist.

But what is one thing that separates Hawaii from all of these other states? And this brings me to the second point, "Is it necessary?"

You all know the facts - the median sale price of a home in Hawaii, the average household income of workers in Hawaii, the cost of living in Hawaii, the supply and demand of housing in Hawaii. We are in a housing crises.

This bill is a necessary step in the right direction - prioritizing local families that are striving to remain at home, over foreign investors, most of which are only concerned with profits and bottom lines.

Again, this bill is simple. Please prioritize the people of Hawaii. Please vote yes on this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:40:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camilo Gonzalez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:40:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands !

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:41:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Sukanuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support bill SB2617

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:41:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shivanni Kekahuna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The locals, more specifically the Native Hawaiian community, need this bill passed. We have the highest cost of living in America and a devastating slow-to-catch-up minimum wage. Locals and Natives are having to migrate out of their homes because of the insane housing costs. Help stop this crisis. Help support the families who want to live here and not profit from owning property here.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:41:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey tanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel strongly on this subject!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:41:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pua Voa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am in support of bill 2617. I believe that outside buyers should be restricted from buying up land and properties in Hawai'i. The housing market is horrible in Hawai'i and it is very sad that Hawaiians are unable to live here due to being outbid and out priced by foreigners.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:42:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Begley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please support this bill, too much of our land has been purchased by people that don't live here and only want to benefit financially. please put a stop to this! thank you.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:42:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rusty Largo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian I support this bill to prohibit foreign buying. This bill is long overdue and should have been in place decades ago before my generation was even born. What has the leadership been doing all these years? Ridiculous and irresponsible.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:42:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Magoon Ohana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yes! Tired of foreigners buying up our islands and our country, helping to inflate our cost of living and taking resources our local people need. In addition to other very valid reasons.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:43:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerome	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill. I believe that we need housing and land at an affordable price for Hawaii residents. The open policy for property sales are driving the housing cost too high and also driving the local people out of Hawaii. Mahalo!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:43:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashlyn Dias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am wanting to share my vote for Bill SB2617, and that is I am for this bill. I agree that this bill stands for everything us locals and Hawaiians need, in order to survive and thrive here in our own native lands. We have family that have needed to move away because the cost of homes or either to expensive or there just isn't any affordable options for them. Even for all of us still trying to make it and working hard, so that we could afford to purchase a home here, is just sometimes out of reach. We need the help, we need to say no to outsiders buying up land and homes, and they don't live here. With this bill SB2617 this will finally be the 1st steps to hawaii taking back hawaii. This will be the 1st steps to Hawaiians and our native people being able to continue to live and thrive on these lands. We want our kids to be able to afford there own homes, one day, but without this bill, who's to say if there will be any land or affordable homes when that time comes. Let's keep hawaii in hawaiian hands. Let's start to take care of our people and our future generations to come.

Please pass bill SB2617.

Mahalo!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:43:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leesa Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Leesa Medeiros. I am a native Hawaiian and I fully support Brenton Awa and this Long Overdue bill.

Please consider the best interest of the locals and Hawai'i's future. Things cannot continue as they have been. We need more people in power to support Mr Awa in trying to restore Hawai'i. Mahalo for your time.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:01:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
FRANCINE A TOBALADO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2617. Mahalo, Mrs. Francine Tobalado

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:43:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Athena Roebuck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

please DO NOT let anyone that is not a resident of Hawaii purchase land and homes! There is a horrendous misuse of current properties and thousands of people

in Maui still homeless after the fire 6 months ago!! Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands!!

mahalo!

Athena Roebuck

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:43:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Wiygul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Brandon Wiygul and my am a resident of the state of Hawaii. My family has been here for 6+ years and are one of the few families able to maintain a suitable life on just a single income. We are planning to move back to the mainland within a year due to the inability to afford a moderate home in this state.

We are a family of three with no debt and one car that is paid off but even with a well above average income, we cannot compete with the foreign investors that purchase and sit on almost any available single family residence on Oahu. We did enter the housing market but were constantly unable to compete because of foreign buyers. This is the same old story for so many Oahu residents that eventually leave because we are unable to put down roots. In fact, I know of at least a dozen homes in the East Foster Village subdivision that were purchased by foreign investors and had nobody living in them. That means fewer homes and higher costs due to the limited availability. That also means more construction is needed in high density living and that is more draw on resources to build and power and cause more traffic and create more transients because we are unable to purchase homes and settle with our families.

I have heard the state AG say that this is unConstitutional and I would challenge anybody to ask them specifically, WHICH part of the Constitution protects foreign investors? The answer is, it does NOT. Banning the purchasing of real estate in the state of Hawaii only benefits the people of Hawaii. There are plenty of unConstitutional aspects we could discuss perpetrated on the people of Hawaii by state government but this is not one of them.

Let's face it- the state is struggling right now. Infrastructure is decrepit, the state was ranked #1 in corruption nationally and all of the locals are moving off island along with wage earners that pay taxes. The school system is failed and the representatives need to do what their constituency has elected them to do and REPRESENT US!! What you need to do right now is to do the right thing and represent US! Not the corrupt real estate billionaires that are keeping all of the regular people out of the market. Please do something right for a change and do what's best for the people of HAWAII! Thank you and we all look forward to a unifying decision instead of doing something that will perpetuate the belief that government will always do the worst thing to the people they're supposed to represent.

Thank you.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:43:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands !

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:43:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ethan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to be able to afford a home in Hawaii as a Native Hawaiian.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:43:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Whitney K. Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to stop foreigners from being able to purchase land here in Hawaii.
Keep Hawaii Hawaiian.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:43:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Cadiente	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fully support

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:43:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lila Bruguere	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a nation it is extremely important to keep foreign buyers from purchasing land in Hawaii or anywhere in the US. China and Russia are the main buyers and it must be stopped before it's too late. This is something we do not want to regret, the time is now. The future is now.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:43:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlesee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2617

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617, which aims to restrict foreigners from purchasing native lands. As a concerned Native Hawaiian citizen, I firmly believe that this legislation is vital for the preservation of our cultural heritage, the well-being of indigenous communities, and the sustainable development of our nation.

Protecting native lands is not only a matter of preserving our natural resources; it is also about safeguarding the rights, traditions, and autonomy of our indigenous communities. By limiting foreign ownership of these lands, we can ensure that decision-making power remains with the people who have lived on and cared for these lands for generations.

One of the primary concerns regarding foreign ownership of native lands is the potential exploitation of resources without considering the long-term environmental and social consequences. Indigenous communities have a deep understanding of the land and its ecosystems, passed down through ancestral knowledge. This bill will help maintain this invaluable knowledge and ensure that sustainable practices are followed, preserving our biodiversity and protecting our fragile ecosystems.

Furthermore, SB2617 will contribute to economic empowerment and social justice for indigenous communities. By preventing foreigners from buying up large tracts of land, we can ensure that these resources remain accessible to local communities for self-sufficiency, agriculture, and economic activities. This measure will create opportunities for indigenous entrepreneurship, stimulate local economies, and reduce socio-economic disparities.

The SB2617 also recognizes the importance of cultural preservation. Native lands hold significant cultural, historical, and spiritual value for indigenous communities. Allowing foreigners to purchase and develop these lands can result in the erosion of cultural traditions, sacred sites, and the displacement of indigenous peoples. By enacting this legislation, we are sending a powerful message that we respect and value the cultural heritage of our indigenous communities.

I understand that some may argue that restricting foreign ownership might discourage foreign investment. However, it is crucial to strike a balance between attracting investment and maintaining the integrity of our native lands. We can explore alternative avenues for foreign investment that respect the rights and aspirations of indigenous communities, such as partnerships and joint ventures that uphold sustainable practices and benefit both parties.

In conclusion, SB2617 is a crucial step towards preserving our cultural heritage, protecting our environment, and empowering indigenous communities. By limiting foreign ownership of native lands, we can ensure the sustainable development of our nation while respecting the rights and aspirations of our indigenous peoples. I urge you to support this bill and help create a future where our native lands remain a source of pride, strength, and sustainability for all.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Charlesee Nohea Stevens
87-842 Helekula Way
Waianae, HI 96792
Cstevens@hawaii.edu
808-741-4241

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:44:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The increasing costs of home ownership on the islands is only getting worse due to foreign entities using this land for their financial benefit. This is driving thousands of Hawaii born families away from the islands to seek more affordable housing. The culture and makeup of these beautiful islands will slowly become unrecognizable because of the profit driven real estate market. Instead, we need to give local families a reasonable chance at home ownership for the years to come.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:44:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandi Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill! It time for a change. Locals should not be priced out of paradise.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:45:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ikaika cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I as a lifelong resident support this bill from foreignors buying up all our land. No land left for Hawaiians to live on. We cant even be Hawaiian in Hawaii

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:45:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bella Hutchinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of SB2617. It's about time action be taken to stop foreigner's from buying property in Hawai'i. This is an important step forward for all local people and families who want to keep Hawaii their home and not have to move away. This is also obviously constitutional since other states have already passed such legislation. So let's move forward and start showing us that you serve your constituents. Mahalo!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:45:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander D Napaa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native born Hawaiian and genealogy that dates back to the monarchy of Hawai'i. I am in full support of said bill. If there is any other assistance needed from myself or Ohana, please advise. -Mahalo always

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:45:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie delanux	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the passing of SB2617. As a native Hawaiian born and raised on the island of Maui, with family ties and lineage to Lāhainā, we need to focus on housing our Ohana's helping them stay on the island they are blood connected to. Our island is not for sale and the displacement of our ohanas for monetary gain and foreign interest will only decimate an already dwindling culture and our homeland.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:45:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Leverett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB 2617 because with the homeless and houseless problem in Hawaii. We don't need to sell land to people who don't live here. When there isn't enough housing for native born Hawaiians and residents of the state. I'm talking full time residents not part time. Maui is the best example there are thousands without homes and tens of thousands short term rentals and people live on the beach. There is no reason they shouldn't have places to live. I remember when I was a kid I was told you could buy a home as a non Hawaiian but you couldn't own the land under it this was before fee simple which allows this. There is no more land the islands are not expanding quickly so we have to use what is provided in a respectable and conservative way. Not selling it off to the highest bidder. It makes no sense when companies can buy thousands of acres for dirt cheap like thousand dollars an acre. But you charge native Hawaiians and residents 250,000 an acre to make a profit. I'm not Native born I've only been here a couple of years but I will not buy because even though on paper Hawaii is a state it was a kingdom first and those native should be allowed to own their ancestral lands not the celebrity who buys thousands of acres that could be housing thousands of people. KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS IN HAWAIIAN HANDS.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:46:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahea U.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a single, college educated, legal professional, born and raised Hawai'i resident and Native Hawaiian female, I strongly support this bill because my dream one day is to become a homeowner here in Hawai'i without having to work multiple jobs, compromise all of my savings, deplete my 401k funds, rely on monetary handouts from family members and live paycheck to paycheck while worrying each day if I'll be able to make my monthly mortgage and utility payments. However, every year that passes by, my dream of becoming a homeowner turns into a nightmare because of the asinine prices of homes that are being sold to foreigners who inflate the housing market here. These foreigners have no loyalty to Hawai'i and its people. These foreigners have no loyalty to improve our State or the housing crisis of our State. These foreigners have no loyalty to understand the corruption happening in our islands. Their loyalty truly resides in being able to live in paradise all the while profiting off our land and our people. So when will our government realize that they need to take care of its residents first? When will our government realize that they are hurting its residents more than protecting them? When will our government realize that the amount of locals moving away from Hawai'i every year is a direct correlation of being priced out of our own homeland? It's the same discouraging message year after year, yet somehow there has been no improvement. I hope one day that your children and your grandchildren are not left homeless or forced to move from Hawai'i because our government failed to do what is pono. You want the next generation to be able to thrive here, and by doing so, you must keep the locals here by allowing homes to be available to them and only them. We want to be proud of the State we live in. We want to be able to chase our dreams without having to drown in our housing sorrows. We want to succeed here and to make our families proud. Hawai'i is not for sale to the outsiders! Keep Hawai'i properties in the hands of Hawai'i residents! Mahalo nui. - A concerned Native Hawaiian resident.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:46:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadine Graham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am of Hawaiian descent. Blessed to born and raised here in Hawaii and grateful to still be working and living here for all of my life. As a tax paying, law abiding citizen, I humbly ask that you sincerely consider this bill and all that it stands for. We all now have the power to make so many wrongs become right. The injustice of rich, well off foreigners continuing to profit off of our paradise while the indigenous and local people suffer must come to an end. Thank you for your help in making progress toward the best Hawaii possible for Hawaiians, locals and our Ohana abroad.

Mahalo,

Nadine M. Graham

February 5th, 2024

Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Capitol,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Senate Bill 2617, which addresses the critical issue of foreign principals acquiring real property within our state. As a resident of Hawaii deeply invested in the well-being and integrity of our community, I believe that enacting this bill is essential to preserving the interests of our state and its residents.

SB 2617, which prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in Hawaii except for de minimus indirect interests, is a crucial step towards safeguarding our state's land and resources. By defining foreign principals and mandating registration with the Attorney General for ownership acquired prior to the bill's effective date, SB 2617 establishes clear guidelines and accountability measures to protect against unlawful acquisitions.

Furthermore, the requirement for buyers of real property to provide a signed affidavit affirming their non-foreign principal status is a proactive measure that ensures transparency and accountability in real estate transactions within our state. It serves to uphold the integrity of our real estate market and prevent exploitation by external entities.

The provision for the forfeiture of unlawfully acquired real property or interests therein, coupled with the establishment of penalties, underscores the seriousness with which Hawaii regards the protection of its land and resources. By holding accountable those who seek to circumvent our laws, SB 2617 sends a strong message that Hawaii is committed to preserving its heritage and sovereignty.

While I acknowledge the fiscal implications of SB 2617 and its impact on the state general fund expenditure ceiling for the 2024-2025 period, I firmly believe that investing in the protection of our land and resources is paramount. The appropriation of funds outlined in the bill is a necessary investment in safeguarding Hawaii's future for generations to come.

In conclusion, I urge you to support and pass Senate Bill 2617, recognizing it as a vital step towards protecting the interests of Hawaii and its residents. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Lexi Saucedo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:46:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kaeden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill, I am in my early twenties in the hawaii guard serving to protect our state and country saving up to get me and my other half a house. And being a local boy from Hawaii seeing other people not from this state buying out properties makes me feel that it's a less chance that it'll happen. It's not right!!!

mahalo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:46:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Ah Quin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:46:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa K Marcos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

My name is Alyssa Marcos and I am from Waimalu, O'ahu. I am a kanaka born and raised on this 'aina and my 'ohana comes from these lands. I am 32 years old and the property I live on today is in immense gratitude to my great-grandmother who had the foresight to know that her mo'opuna would one day need a place to live.

I grew up in a small neighborhood in Waimalu and over the last decade, the families that I grew up with on my street and in my neighborhood have mostly moved away or sold their homes because of the rise in cost of living. Our 'ohana are one of only three 'ohana who are still here from the early 80's. Over the last 5 - 7 years, 5-6 monster homes have been built within a one and a half block radius of my childhood home. All properties were bought by foreign investors and are sitting almost empty or cannot retain a tenant for more than a year. The house right behind mine has new tenants every several weeks. Foreginers continue to buy land on our aina without even stepping foot here and can buy without a second thought. Why is it that we prioritize money over our people and our lahui? Po'e over Profits!

I am strongly in support of this bill so that my keiki and their keiki will continue to have this 'aina as their home for generations to come. There is no Hawai'i without Kanaka.

Mahalo,

Alyssa K Marcos

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:47:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am In support of this bill

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:48:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rondi K Simon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as it is FOR the people of Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:48:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Russo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it gives more chance for actual residents of Hawai'i and locals to have more choices for buying property or homes in the future. Thank you to Brenton Awa for introducing this to the community.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:49:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We need to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands !

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:49:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanelle Starrett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Stop non residents from buying up all the land!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:50:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keenan Place-Puaa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Keenan Place-Puaa support this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:51:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Tinneney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I appose this bill it's the only way to help and keep local people thriving here in the island .

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:51:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hinano Marquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and feel that's it's about time. Sadly as a native Hawaiian I could not afford to live in the land that I call home. This rich foreigners are driving the prices of homes thru the roof! I hope one day me and my ohana will be able to reclaim our birthright!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:52:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candie Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. We need to stop foreign investors from buying all the real estate. Hawaiians should have a chance to continue to live here and raise our families in our state rather than being forced to move elsewhere.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:52:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealii Pooloa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kealiimakamanaonalani, I am a Native Hawaiian woman, wife, mother, social worker and community member and I am submitting SUPPORT for HB 2617. It is high time leadership works to reverse the mechanisms in place that have been contributing to the displacement and forced migration of kanaka oiwi (indigenous peoples whose bones are of this place) to give up their lives here in Hawaii because it's become unattainable for us to afford to live in Hawaii. Please show us you are truly leaders for the people of Hawaii, the indigenous, the generations of migrants, the people who make up the fabric of our local blended cultures that are the reason Hawaii is so special. Please pass SB2617, which is a great start to reversing some of the reasons for our ridiculously high cost of living. This alone won't be enough, but it'll be something to stem the relentless acquisition of land by foreigners who aren't even U.S. citizens. I thank you for your support of this bill.

mahalo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:52:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelani lorenzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Imagine a Hawai‘i where the true essence of local communities thrives, where the vibrant culture and unique way of life are preserved for future generations. That's exactly what the proposed 2617 SB relating to real property aims to achieve. This bill introduces crucial restrictions on foreigners looking to purchase real estate in our beloved state. By implementing these necessary limitations, we can safeguard the integrity of our communities and prevent foreigners from negatively influencing the market by buying real estate.

I support the bill because it is necessary to protect the local housing market from soaring prices and foreign investors driving up demand. I believe that by limiting foreign ownership, it will create a more level playing field for local residents, making homeownership more accessible and affordable for those who call Hawai‘i their home.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:53:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shereen Aoki-Perreira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I lived here, my whole life of 38 years. I've lived in Kalihi since 2002. For the past 17 years, I've seen that neighborhood develop into a bunch of monster homes, one being right across the street from me. Foreigners came and bought two homes. Tore it all down and made a huge home which they now rent out to multiple people. The street parking already sucks there now it's horrible. We honestly don't even know if they got correct permits because the house went up so fast. That's just one scenario. The amount of foreigners investing in all the new developments in town is ridiculous.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:53:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani Bowers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill! Keep the very small amount of priceless Hawaii lands in Hawaiian hands. Most foreigners that purchase land here do not live on the property full time, they build enormous buildings taking up the entire property cutting down all trees and taking away grass. Mainly it prices out the local people so that we can not afford to buy or to even stay here.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:53:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edwina Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Edwina Hall , a native citizen of Hawai'i, support this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:54:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Maybe the only way to bring housing stability in Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:54:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin DeGuzman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill. No foreigner should be allowed to purchase property. Making it harder for American citizens to buy property

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:54:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann-marie hix	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a local and decendant of a plantation worker, I would love for the chance to own my own home and raise my kids on the same land my parents, grandparents and great grandparents were raised. I agree with this Bill to stop foreigners from purchasing our land and making it 100X more expensive to live in paradise.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:55:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Woolley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A huge reason our Hawaii residents are leaving is because the lack of affordable housing. Obviously this is direct relation that our housing is too expensive for residents, and the huge reason is foreign buyers. This precedence needs to stop, and you all have the opportunity to show us why we voted you in, to protect and serve the best interests of your RESIDENTS.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:55:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristie manning	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. 🙌👍

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:56:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nick yee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have lived here on Oahu for over 20 years. I married a local girl and we have raised 2 children here. We love this place we call home. I would like my children to have an opportunity to buy what my wife and I have been able to without competition from deep pocketed foreign investors. And that is why I support this very necessary bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:56:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Misty Yee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I love Hawaii and the USA. I was born in Honolulu, raised in Waipahu and now live in Makakilo and I support this bill. I would like my children, their children and their children's children to purchase their own property in Hawaii, as I am so privileged. We must prohibit foreign principals to purchase our land. They will continue to inflate the cost of real property making it impossible for our children to purchase land and take away this opportunity from we citizens of Hawaii and the USA.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:56:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manahel Al-hozail	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and Hawaii will benefit tremendously from this. Allowing residents and native Hawaiians a better chance at owning property.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:56:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Tafao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to show my support for SB2617 via written testimony. I feel that this bill would lead to relief regarding the state of Hawaii's housing crisis. Furthermore, I believe this will allow not only local residents, but also residents indigenous to the area a chance to become homeowners. It will make home ownership more attainable when local families do not have to compete with the entire world in the housing market. Especially in regards of competing with investment groups and other foreign entities.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:56:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleookeola Magdaro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am Kanaka Maoli and I am writing on behalf of the Hawaiian people in Support of SB2617. Foreigners should not be allowed to buy land in Hawaii. The practice of selling Hawaiian land to foreigners and And mainlanders has not been beneficial to the native people of Hawaii. Hawaii as a state has not taken care of the Hawaiian people and as long as there are homeless Hawaiians on Hawaii, no land should be sold to foreigners.

thank you,

Kaleookeola Magdaro

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:56:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenden Tanoai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617!! It's time to start putting the Hawaiians and local people here FIRST!!! It's time for us to live that American dream!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:57:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lovisa Kahawaii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I would like to strongly support the bill to STOP foreigners from buying any property here in the state of hawaii. We don't even have enough housing for the local, born and raised individuals here as it is, we have a homeless crisis and rent is overpriced. Something has to be done, a few other countries already have this rule about foreigners. Why do we not have this rule?!

Mahalo

Lovisa Kahawaii

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:57:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Detwiler	Testifying for Hawaii Federation of Republican Women	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Submitted in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2617 by Jamie Detwiler, President of the Hawaii Federation of Republican Women

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

The federation stands in strong support of SB2617.

It is a step in the right direction to support the sovereignty of our homeland by protecting it from our foreign adversaries.

While I was unable to find public data on the breakdown of foreign purchases impacting agriculture and residential properties, there are real security concerns.

Agriculture/Farmland: We need to protect our food supply especially because we live in an island state and depend on food and goods from the mainland. Since we depend on food and critical supplies to be shipped to us, we need to strengthen and protect our homegrown agricultural and farmland assets.

Housing: the price of housing is very high and continues to increase, pricing many of our local families out of Hawaii. This bill is the first step in the right direction toward making it more affordable for local families to purchase a home and stay in Hawaii.

Our local families have no choice but to move out of our beautiful home state due to the high cost of living of which housing tops the list. I know this firsthand as my adult children have moved to the mainland due to the high cost of living, opportunities to own a home as well as great career opportunities.

Some government departments have grave concerns regarding the constitutionality and legality of this bill and the potential for this bill, as written, to subject the State to litigation and to cause the State to incur substantial monetary liability. When do foreigners have rights under the U.S. Constitution?

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:57:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
elisha kalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

for someone who personally works for a mortgage company, it's infuriating to see all these homes being sold to outsiders! they're purchasing these homes, some investment and alot moving here with so much entitlement as if we hawaiians owe them. rarely do i see hawaiians purchasing. places like waianae used to be affordable, but now homes are selling way over \$800k and to haoles at that. with every governor saying they're proposing more affordable housing, affordable for who? not us! outsiders! all these foreign investors buying up lots, tearing down buildings and re-building and selling these condos for the view...more than half of the purchasers dont even live here and their condos that they purchased for \$2million plus is sitting there empty. some of them renting it out for \$10k-\$20k/month. outrageous! and, with their purchases, they're getting cars as incentives. and what views and incentives do we get? empty concrete jungles, homelessness, priced out of our homes! alot of us have to live with family all cramped up cause thats the only option we have. working multiple jobs to still not afford our own place, lose out on quality time with our ohana because we're to busy working with nothing to show. there's plenty of land and properties for sale on the mainland, keep it there and keep hawaiian lands in hawaiian hands!! dhhl is so corrupt that they make it just as hard as the state for hawaiians to buy their own, and they're here to help not makenit worst!! for this to be a constant fight is sad!!

imua brenton awa!!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:58:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca McGuire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill that would prohibit non Americans and people from foreign countries from being able to buy land. It is wrong to allow them and jack up prices for local people.

sincerely,

rebecca mcguire

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:58:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SGT Shane Seggar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the stopping of foreign nationals from buying real property in Hawaii. However, I do not support taxing or creating fees for U.S. Citizens to submit forms to prove citizenship. Also, all foreign nationals should be prohibited from buying real property, including corporations and businesses. The law should also prohibit the seizure of real property from citizens who are not kanaka Maoli.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:59:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anuhe St. Laurent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2617. As a Native Hawaiian whose ancestors have lived and thrived in Hawaii for years and years before Colonization and the illegal occupation of Hawai'i by the United States, it pains me to experience and witness the expansive detrimental effects that displacement continues to have on myself, my ohana, and our entire Hawaiian community. As a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist currently in private practice, who has worked in the mental health field in Hawaii since 2006, I can attest to the many significant negative consequences Native Hawaiians continue to experience because of the collective and individual traumas inflicted upon us as direct and indirect results of this aforementioned displacement; Mental illness, houselessness, poverty, drug/alcohol addiction, suicidality, domestic violence, abuse, neglect, medical/physical illness and disease, etc. Making it illegal for foreigners to buy real estate in Hawaii will aid not only Native Hawaiians, but all local families, in being able to afford to continue living in Hawaii. I have witnessed, in my work, and in my personal life, many hardworking families unable to keep their homes in Hawaii, purchase homes in Hawaii, or even rent homes in Hawaii because the costs are astronomically high, especially in comparison to the median wage earned in Hawaii. This problem effects everyone in Hawaii. Foreign investors hike up property taxes, and take their profit outside of Hawaii. This must stop now.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:59:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Moana Huff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We don't have enough land to house our Hawaiian communities. The land taxes are getting out of control for those of us who make and made sacrifices to purchase our homes. I'm born and raised on Molokai , but don't have enough Hawaiian to make the 50% blood quantum for Hawaiian homes land (even if they could put me on a waiting list) I have only 37 % Hawaiian . It is sad as we see more and more land being snatched up by malahinis. They buy and sell and make our home a place where they don't even live but vacation here. The whole dynamics has changed. They bring their Haole mentality here and put up gates and walls to keep us locals out (especially if they've purchased ocean front property). It's madness. If we can't even have locals own in their own lands, why would we want those not of our islands own lands here? We are not servants to these people. Shame on Hawaii!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:59:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Ashley Bullard, strongly support bill 2617 relating to real property. Having been born and raised here in Hawai'i and also as a Native Hawaiian, I believe the bill is in the right direction into allowing generations to be able to keep calling Hawai'i home. Disallowing foreign entities from purchasing the already limited property here will give the locals a little more of a fighting chance to be able to own their own homes here. Enough with the monster homes being built just to rent out single rooms to individuals while whole families leave for the continental US. Enough with outsiders coming to take what little is left. We need to keep Hawai'i, Hawai'i because what will it become without its own people. We don't have millions of dollars in the bank. Cost of living is high here, mortgages and rent are through the roof, but we continue to make due because this is our home. And we want to be able to keep calling it that. As citizens of the US our needs should be taking precedence over foreigners. Not everything is about money. Hawai'i needs to be preserved. And this bill will help with that.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:01:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meli Leilani Devencenzi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Kanaka 'Ōiwi with pilina and kuleana to this 'āina, I strongly support this bill.

-meli leilani devencenzi

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:02:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantelle Dikilato-Rogers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617. I have seen too many of my family and friends moving away to buy a home in the mainland. Due to non-residents or foreigners buying homes in Hawaii which is driving up prices for the people of Hawaii to purchase. Let's do right by the people of Hawaii and keep them home for generations to come.

New Zealand The ruling Labour Party introduced the ban on foreign buyers in 2018, saying that overseas speculators had driven up house prices and made property unattainable for many young Kiwis. Others are heading in the same direction.

Something has to be done and this bill is the right step towards keeping the people of Hawaii home. The more Hawaii people move away, the less this beautiful islands will be Hawaii. Put our people and this place first. There is no other place. Aloha

Thank you for your time.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:02:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Vidnha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Last year Hawaii was put in the national spot light showing that they can't keep local families from moving away. When Iam Tongi told the world he and his family was "priced out of paradise". Enough is Enough! This bill may not be the total answer but it is a huge step forward in keeping local families where they grew up and belong.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:03:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doneileen Willets	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen of Hawaii, and a native myself I support SB2617. Time for something new.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:03:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support bill SB2617. I'm tired of seeing our local people (my own family and friends) being priced out of Hawaii because they will never be able to afford a home here. Our people should be the priority over any investor. The born and raised local people & families are a huge part in what makes Hawaii so special. A change definitely needs to be made in order to keep locals here on our islands. We need to start putting our people first over profit. Passing this bill will be the step we need in order to start making a much needed change in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:03:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johvanna Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I support bill SB2617 I was born and raised on Oahu. I own my own home here. Unfortunately the my children won't be able to afford a home here in Hawaii. I believe it's due to low inventory of homes on the market due to foreigners buying homes here in Hawaii. Which makes the prices soar to where the local people are unable to afford purchasing a home. We need to take care of our own people who reside here first. My daughter and her family are moving to the mainland in July because purchasing a home here is way out of their budget. I am pleading with you to stop and make changes to where we can keep our children from moving away. Keep the local people and Hawaiian people here. Stop pushing them away. My hope is if we can pass this bill my family can come back home.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:03:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kauhi sarmiento	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha We are being priced out of paradise, from generation to generation we are losing public access to many fishing grounds, camp sites and cultural practices locations. They are destroying sacred sites and building luxury houses and condos and apartments. They build then sell. We are over it.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:04:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby Kauwelo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617 as a vital measure to address Hawaii's housing crisis. With skyrocketing prices forcing locals out, it's time to safeguard affordable housing for residents. Let's prioritize our community's needs and secure a sustainable future for all.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:04:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jarrett Lindsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, as a native hawaiian I believe now is the time to implement laws like this that will reshape the future of our islands. For too long we have allowed foreign interests to park their wealth here in land and generate long term wealth through equity. I feel sad for all of the local people that are forced to move away because they are priced out of paradise while foreigner's homes are sitting vacant as vacation homes. Think about all these people that do not contribute to our economy because they do not live here. While the people that do live here are struggling and getting over taxed. Its now or never. Lets bring our locals home. Enough is enough. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:04:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Mah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This bill is truly long overdue, for too long our state government has stood by as foreign entities have taken advantage of lax policies and purchased up much of the real estate and available prospective properties. Hawai'i residents young and old are left with ever rising housing costs and rising property tax (based on the value of property). Preventing outside entities from purchasing or holding real estate in Hawaii would be a first step in protecting the land ownership rights of both Hawaii residents and Kanaka Maoli. This bill is a lifeline to many families that are simply being priced out of paradise. Put simply to kill this bill is to snuff out a last glimmer of hope for many families to keep living in their ancestral home.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:04:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support bill 2617 which Prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest. Defines foreign principal. Requires a foreign principal that owns real property that was acquired before this measure's effective date to register the ownership with the Attorney General. Requires a buyer of real property to provide a signed affidavit attesting that the buyer is not a foreign principal.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:04:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby Caraballo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I have grown up here for my whole life and because of how much mainlander and foreigners have bought out the land at 31 y/o I still can't afford to buy a home because the prices have gone extremely. Even with my husband and my income we still can not afford to buy a home and support our two children at the same time. The gentrification is enough. Everyday there is new buisnesses going up, new multi million homes that no one here in Hawaii can afford. We should be building homes or apartments buildings that the people of Hawaii can afford. Our people are literally being priced out of paradise. It should not be that way.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:05:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michael	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill strikes me as insane. I spent over a decade working along a d in the ocean here in Hawaii, and I spend my free time enjoying g the ocean surfing, diving, and fishing. This bill is MIND BLOWING OVERREACH by the state government and a very slippery slope. It is pathetic and disappointing that any official would even consider signing this. This bill will destroy family businesses- and leave the option of purchasing permits " to the highest bidder". Anyone even considering this should be ashamed of themselves.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:05:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marina Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that this bill will do so much good for our state. Just as other places like New Zealand do this, keeping residential real estate sales open only to our own citizens will help keep prices potentially more attainable as we only compete with each other, rather than the entire world.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:05:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristal Thomason	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a family here on Oahu, my husband and I both serve our local community in different, yet impactful ways. My husband is a plumber and trade workers here are known to be able to make a decent salary per year. He is the plumber that our kupuna within the neighborhood will come over to our house and ask for help. I myself host a local freestore for native plants, seeds, and fruits. There are currently 20 sites for freestores on Oahu and as a host of the one of the busiest freestores on the island, it has been my honor to be able to serve the community with such gracious gifts and purpose. Both Our sons attend Puohala Elementary and our oldest son attends their Hawaiian immersion program. To be Frank, we are not Kanaka, and as transplants we have strived to do what we can to serve our purpose here. We honor the culture, we cherish the lands, and we constantly learn from people born and raised here within the community. Over the years, watching people leave because of foreigners buying properties/land and upping prices in their areas has been a disheartening downfall. How can the culture, which is so deeply rooted here continue if there is no one left to learn from? How can a family, who makes six figures, not afford to buy a single family home here? The questions and the concerns go on; but the bottom line to it all is foreigners purchasing property and lands to gain financially on their end, when their purpose is not within their hearts like ours here. And most of the foreigners do not reside here. Why give foreigners the priority choice of property over the people who are actually here? Who serve the island, who work on the island, who teach their children the ways here and to continue it on thru each generation? A regulation NEEDS to happen in order for the cherish lands in here Hawaii to keep its purpose, to keep its spirit alive. Not for greed and not for collection. Without policies and restrictions in place for foreigners to buy property here, in time, the love the spirit the feeling people see when they arrive here will dissipate over time. Then what will Hawaii become? Just another state? The community has been crying for a resolution with this current housing crisis. And the time is now to regulate on this. Families like mine should have a choice before foreign buyers, families who have been born and raised on these lands for generations MUST have a choice before foreign buyers and families who fix the island and who serve the community should have a choice before foreign buyers. Again, We may not be kanaka and as transplants who have took the due diligence of learning about Hawaii, it is up to people like us, locals like our friends and families, to continue the spirit and aloha here within the lands for our next generation and then on. What is unconstitutional is not giving the people here a choice over foreigners. What is unconstitutional is giving them no options except for exile. Placing restrictions, to protect the people here in Hawaii first, is NOT unconstitutional. It's what America is supposed to be about by putting its own people, it's own citizens first. And in order to continue what is left here in Hawaii is up to the community to continue the work, to continue to Aloha.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:06:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sydney Millerd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sydney Millerd & **I strongly support this bill**. I was born and raised in Waipahu, Hawai'i, and now as a 25-year-old young adult, I worry about finding and affording a home in this state. Like many local young adults, we fear that we may have to leave the islands because of this. Many of my friends already have.

This bill is for the people of Hawai'i and will help keep Hawai'i for Hawai'i people. Many of us are losing faith in our state government and political leaders; however, the passing of this bill will show us that you folks do care about us and the future of our islands.

Mahalo nui loa,

Sydney Millerd

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:07:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Kaina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a native Hawaiian who is currently being priced out of paradise. My hometown of Kahuku is being radically gentrified and transformed. A one hundred year old plantation house is selling for \$900,000 right now. I support any every attempt to control our housing market and stop foreign investors.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:07:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tehani Hinkley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Native Hawaiian who has been impacted by property being bought by foreigners. I lived in other US states for 10 years to make the sacrifices to be able to own property. I suffered mentally and spiritually for a long time to be able to move home and own property. It's been a long, sad, hard process. Many of my family and friends have either moved away or are only able to rent homes or often living with many people in one house. After coming home in May 2023 I have noticed a significant change in the demographic of the population in many areas which has caused relocation of Native Hawaiians and a threat to the culture and people. One area in particular on the Windward side has changed so much the culture is similar to other states in the US. I have family members who can't return home because they can't afford to and as prices continue to increase I fear they never will be able to. I support this bill. Please pass it for our Native Hawaiian future generations. Mahalo nui.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:07:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Iiga-Saole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With the continued rising cost of housing in Hawaii, in both the ownership and rental market, the impact spans beyond those living in poverty. Please consider addressing the housing shortage with an immediate ban on foreign purchases and limited non-resident citizens.

The housing shortage, coupled with increased interest rates, have average home costs well above the suggested shelter costs (of 30% income) which drive out local families (of all levels of income) to move CONUS or stay and face poor living conditions (substandard homes & homeless conditions). The heavy costs of construction means that rentals and fee simple alike are over priced and in poor condition. There is little oversight and monitoring to ensure equal access to rental rights absent the money to build a case and/ complaint. We know so many families that are barely above poverty limit who have chosen to move away to provide their family with a better quality of life. A friend from CONUS had mentioned to me that it is common practice to relocate if you can no longer afford an area (that you were raised in). However that mentality is contradictory to our cultures - native Hawaiian and the majority of local cultures - Polynesian/ Asian. Our connection to land and people do not simply relocate nor does this yield the most beneficial outcome for Hawai'i. The state of Hawai'i benefits from the strengthening of our local families - through education, careers, culture and home ownership.

Land is a natural resource our state can no longer afford to sell to the highest bidder, manage poorly or behave risk-adverse. In the absence of response from the state, it is perceived as concurrence and as a negligible issue. The risk is not solely owned by the state but by the people of Hawai'i who are at a loss with a basic right to live necessity. Please consider moving this bill, or some variation, forward this legislation season.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:07:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Sparks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Natasha Sparks I am a native Hawaiian born and raised on the island of Maui and I support this bill. I support this bill not only for myself but for my children and their children and so on. So that they may have the chance to stay here in Hawaii and purchase a home of their own with out having to compete with foreign investors with no ties to Hawaii other than it being their 2nd 3rd or 4th home, their investment home when people born and raised here can't even afford to stay here. Please consider this bill and pass it for our future generations. Hawaii will not be Hawaii with Hawaiians.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:08:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaylee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Senate Bill 2617, which proposes restrictions on foreign investors purchasing property in Hawai'i. This crucial legislation not only addresses the acute challenges posed by the high cost of living and homelessness in the state but also aims to foster a more equitable distribution of real estate opportunities among the local community.

Hawai'i's unique cultural heritage and the indelible connection of Native Hawaiians to their land necessitate protective measures to ensure that they can actively participate in and benefit from the state's real estate market. By implementing safeguards against excessive foreign investment, SB2617 paves the way for greater accessibility to housing for native Hawaiians and local residents, promoting a sense of community and cultural preservation.

The exorbitant cost of living in Hawai'i has become an undeniable burden for its residents, often resulting in housing instability and an alarming increase in homelessness. SB2617 presents a timely and strategic intervention by prioritizing the needs of the local population over speculative investments from abroad. This legislative initiative is a crucial step towards rectifying the imbalance in property ownership and catalyzing positive change in the housing landscape.

By limiting the influence of foreign investors, SB2617 not only supports the socioeconomic well-being of native Hawaiians but also addresses the broader issue of homelessness, which has reached alarming proportions. As local residents struggle to secure affordable housing, the need for legislative measures that protect their interests and promote community welfare is more pressing than ever.

Restricting the purchase of property by foreign investors is not inherently unconstitutional, as it falls within the realm of state legislative authority to regulate and manage local real estate markets. The Constitution grants states the power to enact laws that serve the welfare of their residents and address specific economic, social, or cultural challenges within their borders. Policies aimed at curbing foreign investment to prioritize the housing needs of local communities are well within the constitutional framework. Such measures, like those proposed in SB2617, are a legitimate exercise of state authority to protect the interests of residents, maintain social stability, and ensure a fair distribution of resources. As long as these restrictions are implemented without unjustly discriminating against specific groups and are in line with broader constitutional

principles, they can serve as a reasonable and constitutional means to address local housing concerns.

In conclusion, I fervently endorse SB2617 for its potential to empower native Hawaiians and alleviate the housing crisis in the state. By enacting this legislation, Hawai'i has the opportunity to prioritize the well-being of its residents, foster a more equitable distribution of property, and safeguard its unique cultural heritage for generations to come.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:08:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Tiritas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Foreign investors should not be allowed to purchase or own any land, buildings, hotels, etc in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:08:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Correa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I support this bill because I experienced first hand how much of an impact this issue is making on locals trying to live in Hawaii. My wife and I finally saved up barely enough money to buy property of our own and were looking for an apartment something small we could afford. We did not have 20% but we were able to offer over asking in some situations. We put 20 offers on apartments and what we were noticing is what appeared to be foreign investors coming to all the open houses while on the phone with someone. We later found out though our agent most of the apartments we were trying to purchase were bought with cash offers. Not only is this driving up cost but also taking away homes from native Hawaiians and locals born and raised here.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:09:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jillian wenderlich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for considering this bill. For giving people a chance to be able to keep their families at home without being driven out by foreign investors. Everyone I know strongly supports this.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:09:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deidre Wibberley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As it's written, "LONG OVERDUE". Please help current and future HAWAIIANS remain in Hawai'i. There's no other place on earth that is their home. Outsiders can wait and go through the steps to become residents before continuing to buy all the land. IT'S TIME. Do what is pono to Hawai'i or resign and seek an alternative career.

Mahalo and IMUA Hawai'i

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:10:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alohilani Asuega	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep HAWAIIAN LANDS IN HAWAIIAN HANDS. Born and raised here on O'ahu for 24 years. I am kanaka. I am a descendant of kanaka blood. I carry my ancestors in my blood. Seeing our land an ISLAND being stripped away from our native people is heartbreaking and dishonorable. All our government cares about is money! They do not care about the sacred grounds that they are constantly digging up around the islands. Us, the people of Hawaii, Hawaiians are being pushed out of our own lands because it is ridiculously unaffordable. As much as we would LOVE to stay here and raise our children, grandchildren, great great grandchildren we cannot because we are struggling everyday to make ends meet! I pray over the all native Hawaiians that someday we will take back what's ours! So YES let's begin NOW! I am in favor of passing this "long over due bill" !!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:10:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuuiipo Kekahuna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill, no more Hawaiian lands should be owned by people who do not respect them and the native Hawaiian inhabitants.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:10:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Pereira-Sang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Tiare Pereira-Sang and I support this bill. As nicknamed, this bill is extremely long overdue. Please listen to the people of Hawaii and pass this through. Mahalo!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:11:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Vincent Melamed	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi, as a born and raised resident of Kauai. I'm supporting this bill due to the nature of real estate getting out of control and lack of properties available for purchase on my island.

Thanm you

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:11:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Goto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for considering my testimony. I'm a homeowner with a second rental house in Kailua. I've rented to the same two families for nearly two decades and I have not raised the rent since 2011, even though I now pay double taxes because I now fall into the residential A category because the property tax code has not been altered to reflect the increase in house values since the residential A was created to discourage illegal short term rentals. Even though money was allocated to the authorities to track down and fine illegal short term rentals, they still abound in Kailua because it seems it's fairly easy to skirt the law. Over the last few years, I received almost daily cold calls from "local" real estate agencies asking if I would sell. When, out of curiosity, I investigated one of the cold callers (because the person's accent was decidedly Indian, leading me to believe the call was from a foreign call center), the information given to me led to an LLC with a post office box in Kapolei. Digging deeper, I found that the principall of the LLC was a large development company located in Dubai. This is how large foreign companies are buying up swaths of Kailua homes and operating them as hotels. I honestly don't know how the state/county is going to regulate who can buy property when they don't even seem able to vet Airbnb and VRBO ads online, but I hope they can manage. I'm not selling my property, and I won't raise the rent, even though I'm taking the hit of thousands of dollars because the tax department won't adjust the minimum value of property to reflect actual property valuation (the limit is anything over 1 million. Right now, any EMPTY lot in Kailua is valued at 1 million. So, if you rent long term to a local family now, you STILL have to pay the double residential A tax rate, no matter what. It's no wonder rents are going up so much). So, I'd like to voice my support for this bill, though I have little faith that it can or will be passed or enforced. Who knows? I've been surprised before. Thank you. Aloha

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:11:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
bonnienakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No foreign people to occupy land . only local people are allowed.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:12:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Tupou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill to ban foreigners from purchasing land in Hawaii. As a Native Hawaiian who was born and raised here, and who continues to live and raise my family here, it is sad to see our Native people being displaced by foreigners. It's about time that this is stopped. If other states have done this, how is it unconstitutional??? The foreigners coming here paying cash for property is something that the locals cannot compete with. And they don't even intend to live on these properties but rather just use it for investment. Meanwhile our indigenous people are forced out. I humbly ask that this bill be passed for the people of Hawaii. Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:12:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Pulver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the members of the CPN and TCA committee,

I strongly support measure SB2617 and urge you to do the same. Prohibiting foreign entities from acquiring real property in the state of Hawaii we'll go along way to support the people of Hawaii, your constituents, Allowing them to keep the hope of maybe one day, owning their own home alive. We elect you in the hope we can trust you to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaii's hands.

Mahalo for consideration of my testimony.

Margaret Pulver

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:12:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika Kapu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A Future for Our Kids in Their Ancestral Land

As a future parent in Kapolei the thought of my children being unable to afford to live in their ancestral lands is heartbreaking. With average home prices over \$800,000, the reality is grim unless we enact legislation to curb the influence of foreign and non-resident buyers. We must protect our land for our children, ensuring they have the opportunity to grow, thrive, and contribute to our community's future.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:13:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alysha Cummings	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to support Bill SB2617 by prohibiting foreign principals from buying and acquiring property in Hawai'i. Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian hands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:13:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamaka Parker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the "Long Overdue" bill that prohibits foreigners from buying land/real estate in Hawai'i for the following reasons.

1. Under the illegal occupation of United States of America, the control of these stolen lands has been completely mismanaged and does not honor the people, place of its Kingdom.
2. who benefits from the sale to foreigners? The foreigners do and those foreigners don't live, pay taxes or care about this place.
3. why is land such a commodity? Because if people can make money off of it, they will. But what happens when only money is left and the people are gone.
4. we live on an island with limited resources, land being one of them. Why are we not using this land for the purpose it was intended, to sustain and provide for us. How do foreigners play into this? Will they take our resources and send it back to where they came from?
5. our people need this land to sustain them. They need housing. They need places to grow food. We need to stop relying on outside resources to provide for us. We can do it but we need land.
6. other countries who limit their immigration and land sales to outsiders have been able to maintain the natural beauty of their Āina and keep the people of that place there. People must move away from Hawai'i and not just 50 miles away into another city like in the US. Keep our families home!
7. do we want to be like Hong Kong with empty sky rises standing for the pure reason of profit? It's inhumane to allow housing to sit vacant with a house las problem as large as ours.
8. what does a foreigner bring to Hawai'i that Hawai'i needs or wants? As a Native Hawaiian raised and fighting to stay here, I want or need nothing from them. They want what we have! They was the aloha spirit, the magic of Hawai'i but yet they bring their culture/beliefs with them and impose them on us. We didn't ask for you to come. We didn't ask to be forced out of our homeland.
9. I have traveled the world, I have seen many places and I know where my place is. I wouldn't move somewhere else and be a burden on someone else's land/community. I have my own kuleana here. Which is why I leave there and return home. I wish more people would do the same.
10. the government should work for ITS people. Foreign people are not the people of Hawai'i. The government should fight to protect its people. The government should fight

for the betterment of its people. The government should always think of their people and place above anything else.

for all the reasons I stated above, I support this bill and the stop of selling our lands/real estate to foreigners.

no ku'u lāhui e ha'awi pau, a i ola mau!

Kamaka Parker

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:38:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelique Makue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please take this bill in to consideration. It has been a long time coming and is long over due for us Natives.

I am of Native Hawaiian descent as well as my children. All I see is Hawaiians being priced out of paradise and not being able to survive and afford to live in our own homelands. Hawaii is our home and we should be given the first choice as native Hawaiians to purchase land and not be out bid or compete with foreigners who will not keep hawaii hawaii. Think about our children and all our family members who have already moved away because they cannot compete with the foreigners who keep moving in and taking over. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. Please give us a chance to not have to rely on a broken system to survive here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration in this matter.

Angelique Makue

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:13:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Adric	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:14:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Abreu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

When do we stop selling out Hawaii, and its land to foreign countries. I support this bill and let's make it work and bring justice for our people before it's too late. Hawaii is changing, with change we need laws to protect our people that already make Hawaii home. Thank you

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:14:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rory Ng	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have worked for an appliance repair company for a little over a year, the customers that would call, would be from the mainland. It was so depressing to know that many of the high rises built in the city was owned by off island people. I would ask what was the problem was and they would say we've been away for 6 months and my washer stinks etc. Please let the islanders be priority to housing. I know many many families whose moved away because of the cost of housing.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:14:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawaikahi Tanigawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha ē,

My name is Emma Kawaikahi Tanigawa and am I in support of SB123. I was born and raised in Āliapa‘akai, O‘ahu in a small 2 bedroom apartment with my parents and 2 younger siblings. As I grew, I witnessed dangerous socioeconomic developments that made it difficult for Kānaka Maoli and Hawai‘i locals to live comfortably in Hawai‘i. I have witnessed many friends and neighbors of the same neighborhood become homeless. I have had many family members move to the states as a result of housing prices. And I have witnessed my father and mother struggle to move out of the same 2 bedroom apartment I was raised in since 1998.

Today, I am a graduate student of UH Hilo and live in a small 1 bedroom apartment with my partner. And I worry that I will also face the same fate as my parents. Am I also to go 26 years without affording a home in Hawai‘i while foreigners can pay out of pocket for a home tomorrow? What will become of the land? Will it be taken care of? I worry that there will be no room left for myself, other Kānaka Maoli, and Hawai‘i locals unless SB123 is passed.

I urge all Hawai‘i government personnal to support SB123 to stop foreign buying of Hawai‘i lands.

Me ke aloha,

Kawaikahi Tanigawa

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:14:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaikaonalani James	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A‘ole haole! We deserve a future with the ‘āina, our kupuna. Not foreigners. Not foreigners who suck up all the clean water, jack up the housing prices, and hardly, if at all, mālama ‘āina. Tired of seeing and hearing about kanaka struggling, paying upwards of THREE THOUSAND FOR RENT while foreigners live lavish.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:15:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Caramonte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. The people of Hawaii needs this to protect Hawaii's future. To much land is lost and locals moving away. For this I urge the committee to pass this bill

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:15:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keokapukoa Kaohelaulii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kakoo wau i keia pila

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:40:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zysha-Lyne Mokiao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The "long overdue bill" needs to be put in action and be taken seriously! Natives being priced out of their own homes and their own roots is uncalled for, unfortunate and out of control. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. Natives belong here on our 'āina, we know the kūleana that takes place. Hawai'i without kānaka maoli is terrifying!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:39:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Sanchez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

First of, I strongly support this Bill because all you Politicians are the pinnacle of corruption period. You guys hide, reword, rephrase every law in order to fulfill your sneaky agendas where you guys want to make us believe that you are actually helping us but that's not the case. This bill is very transparent on who doesn't get to purchase land. The foreigners who purchase land are greedy people that are only interested in gaining the most amount of money. It's not my fault that Epsteins Island blew up and now all you desperate soul selling politicians gotta leave the hard working locals of Hawaii to die!! The foreigners that purchase the land don't care about the culture! They have zero respect for the culture and the people. Life is not fair I know this. What really is not fair is having to be born on an Island and being raised there your entire life only to find out you can never own a house or land. Unless you become a corrupt politician and steal from the people. It's not fair that the middle class and Lower class of the STATE OF HAWAII have to suffer time and time at the hands and decisions of others. Stop stealing and trying to play both sides. At the end of the day God knows what side you chose!!! Born and Raised Maui 28 years and I worked a fulltime job since I was 16 and I still can't even get started to buy land or nothing because I've been setup fail by being a product of my environment that you guys built so you guys better fight for the locals and not the money!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:17:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lokahi Barbieto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I am a native Hawaiian and I support this bill to maybe one day own land in my own beautiful home we call Hawaii. I believe that letting foreigners buy out our land is driving the cost up making it very hard for us to be able to afford land here in Hawaii. And to me that is very wrong. Aloha

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:39:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aogawa1287@gmail.com	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is home. My sad reality is my sibling, 4 auntys and 1 uncle, and one more auntie at the end of this month move away because they're literally priced out of paradise. We had 6 friends and their families move to the US in the last 4 years. The housing market is unattainable for the type of incomes are families have here, but yet we have foreign nationals and even US mainland people coming in and buying the properties

Perfect example as we have Korean nationals that just purchase the lot next to us. we as a local family would've loved to purchase and had family back home. The truth is having these foreign investors come and buy our property makes it nearly impossible for any local family to purchase homes here, I miss my family. I would love to live by them but my reality, I cannot leave this island .I have a daughter whose dad still lives here and is an active part of her life, my reality is my family cannot be here with us. my parents as well have moved to the mainland to be Closer to my siblings.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:39:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesina Manutai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in favor of this bill. Please help us keep our local people here in Hawaii. I am trying to stay here in Hawaii where I was born and raised. My husband and I both work full time jobs for the state as teachers in our public schools. We were both born and raised in Hawaii and love to help raise and guide our own children to become the next leaders. I cannot challenge these big companies that are buying out properties and then re selling them back to us for more. It's outrageous.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:17:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arminda Hoomanawanui-Sugai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am rejoiced to know that a bill as such is bringing brought to the table. This bill will help keep Hawai'i in Hawaiian hands. As someone born in the early 90's it's a harsh reality for us that we might not be able to spend our lifetime here in our home; this bill helps restore that hope that there will be home left in Hawai'i for k̄naka. Many homes sit empty as vacation rentals or second homes while our k̄naka our houseless some times living in camping tents on the beach. I support this bill for the generations of k̄naka to come. Eo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:41:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ash Hooks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ash Hooks. I support bill SB2617 due to the cost of housing and availability in the state of Hawai'i. With lack of housing and high cost, removal of foreigners competing in Hawai'i housing market is a must.

Mahalo,

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:41:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stasey B	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native to Hawaii, I support this to keep foreigners from buying any properties here in Hawaii. This bill has already been proven to work in other states. This allows natives, the people of Hawaii who have been born with the koko, the opportunity to afford a place to call their own.

Similarly to how the military takes care of "theirs," the "state of Hawaii" should allow the same for Hawaiians (with blood, quantum doesn't matter.) Provide us with properties affordable to the living wages. Provide us homes that is affordable to the living wages.

STOP allowing foreigners to buy and take from us Hawaiians so we are able to stay here for generations to come.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:17:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Kekina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha CPN/TCA Committe Members,

I am providing written tesimony in SUPPORT of SB2617: prohibiting the acquisition of land in the State of Hawaii to foreigners. I was VERY lucky I was able to purchase a small apartment after my divorce. VERY lucky I did not yet get priced out of paradise. But in the divorce, I lost my house because I could not afford the buy out. As such, my place is so small, I have also lost custody of my son. BUT AT LEAST I STILL GET TO LIVE IN HAWAII - WHERE I WAS BORN AND RAISED. I get to watch my son grow up and spend some time with him. It's still a struggle to keep it all together. And I have a solid State career of 30 years next year. I COULD retire, but no way can I afford to. I am doing EVERYTHING I can to stay here and survive.

I fear outsiders, foreigners international (AND domestic), will continue to outbid each other causing prices to ridiculously skyrocket like they already have more than several times, putting the dream of owning your own home and continuing to live out your years where you love to work, play, and serve put well out of reach. It's already out of reach for too many. Let's stop this trend before it's too late and all of Hawaii gets sold to the highest bidder. CAN WE PLEASE THINK OF THE PEOPLE???

With sincere aloha, Leimomi

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:41:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Whims	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Michelle Whims, a resident of Hawai'i. I support this bill as my family has been directly impacted by the high cost of living in Hawai'i. My family is Native Hawaiian and the fact that my Aunts, Uncles, even my own Mother for a period of time was not able to afford to live in her own state because of wealthy foreigners and mainlanders is not right or ethical. By passing this bill, it will allow the people of Hawai'i to stay here and not be priced out by wealthy foreigners.

Mahalo for your time.

Shell

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:18:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lydia McShane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I 100% back this bill and believe this could benefit the people of Hawai'i more than the most recent bills that have been passed. It will eliminate outside buyers and open up opportunities for the people of Hawai'i to remain on our home islands and malama our 'aina. After all, there is no Hawai'i without HAWAIIANS!!!!

HAWAII - FOR WE STAND TOGETHER!!!!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:08:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support bill SB2617. I've lived in Hawai'i since I was 3 years old. I'm now 39 and am trying very hard to purchase my first home, and it's not looking good for me. Local people need support from their local government.

Mahalo,

Jacob Merkel

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:18:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Duclayan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support bill SB2617. It truly is long overdue. Unless something is done, like passing this bill, my grandchildren and their grandchildren will **never** be able to afford a home. They will be the victims like countless residents who have left the state due to being priced out of paradise.

Outside buyers, foreign investors or buyers not from this state (**born and raised**), have for decades continued to drive costs up because they're the only ones who can afford the **INSANE** cost of owning a home here in Hawaii. Yes, there are other factors which contribute to the unaffordability of local people owning a home. But the passing of this bill I believe, is a step in the right direction and also is, the right thing to do.

Mahalo!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:18:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DeeDee Bertelmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I live on Moku o Keawe. The community that I was born and raised in is being bought out by billionaires as we speak! We the kama'aina, the people of this 'Aina are not able to afford to purchase anything within a 100 mile radius of where we were born and raised. Many are not able to afford to rent a home here and have had to leave our home town to find a house to live in yet make the 50 plus mile drive to and from for work. My daughter and son-in-law have diligently saved to purchase a property only to be outbid by someone paying cash, over the asking price, site unseen and from the continent. How discouraging is this for a young family busting their butts to make a living and diligently saving for at least a down payment. NOT ACCEPTABLE!

I am in SUPPORT of SB 2617 prohibiting foreigners from acquiring our land!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:19:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Kaaialii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Foreign entities and investors should not be allowed to purchase properties in the state of Hawaii. It does nothing good for the local housing market except for driving more families out of the state because of ridiculous housing prices that only cater to the elite and those who can afford to pay the prices to live in paradise. The people of Hawaii suffered long enough under the weak leadership of the Democratic Party, who only has their interests in mind and has no remorse for excluding the people and making them suffer with a corrupt system statewide. This is a step towards real progress, unlike many failed attempts that were half baked at best.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:19:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
bronson ikaika bajo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALOHA,

MY NAME IS BRONSON IKAIKA BAJO, AND I AM IN SUPPORT OF SB2617. WE NEED TO PROTECT OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO COME FROM BEING "PRICED OUT" OF OUR OWN HOME. WE NEED A LAW IN PLACE TO PROTECT US FROM FOREIGN LAND OWNERSHIP BECAUSE IT IS DIFFICULT TO STAY AFLOAT HERE IN OUR OWN HOMELAND. PLEASE FIGHT FOR OUR PEOPLE SO THAT THE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO COME CAN AFFORD TO LIVE HERE.

MAHALO,

BRONSON IKAIKA BAJO

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:19:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaina Matthews	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:19:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxanne Leanio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Roxanne Leanio support bill 2617 SB relating to real property. The more foreign investors we let purchase land in Hawai'i means there is less land for us kanaka to purchase and pass on to our generations to come, whether it be residential or commercial. Please STOP allowing foreigners to purchase land in Hawai'i. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:20:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tehani Tapuro	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I testify by protecting the Native Hawaiians.
Keep hawaiian land in Hawaiian hands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:20:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Osorio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing in FULL support of SB2617.

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:20:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Galpin	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha, As a current homeowner in Koolauloa I am sick seeing so many foreign buyers scooping up property to then use it as a airbnb which continues, inspite of the lip service of our ELECTED officials to stop it, goes unpunished. Our younger generation will never have the opportunity to own a home as things are now. STOP FOREIGN BUYERS. Other states are doing this. So can Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:20:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julianne King	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee members,

I strongly support SB2617 which would prohibit the sale of hawaii land to foreign owners. As an island state which is struggling to house its local people, i believe this would help reduce the demand on our land and housing prices. Let's make hawaii work for hawaiiians and its people not for the benefit of foreign corporations or entities.

Mahalo

Julianne King

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:22:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoe Emmsley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support SB2617. As a Native Hawaiian living in Hawaii, we are being priced out of paradise from all these foreigners and Non-Hawaii individuals, companies, investors come in and purchase up all of our precious land and homes. Our Native Hawaiian people are no longer able to afford living in Hawaii. We need to STOP foreigners from purchasing Hawaii land and homes! We need to keep and restore the Hawaiian lands/homes to Hawaiian people and the natives of Hawaii!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:20:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Osorio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing in FULL support of SB2617.

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:22:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared Nakahara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a person born and raised in Hawaii, I've seen and heard many cases of wealthy foreign investors buying up property and leaving them unoccupied most of the year, only to vacation here. It could've been a home to a hard working local family. We average US citizens can't even compete with them. I believe this Long Overdue bill will give us a fighting chance and will prioritize tax paying US citizens over foreign vacationers and investors.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:43:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Duncan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Enough of Hawaii is abused in real estate and if this can stop more abuse then I support that.
Technically nature should take it all back sooner than later so the lands can heal.
Maria Duncan

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:24:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonette Kaahui-Knight	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have first hand how foriegn buyers ruin our Real Estate Market. I have been a licensed Real Estate Agent since 1990. It is so frustrating to see actual citizens out bided by foreigners who are only prospecting. This bill is over 40 years too late.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:22:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Billy woods	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a north shore resident native Hawaiian I support this bill. Dealing with a situation like this right now not from foreign but from entitlement ment corporations with \$\$\$ feeling like they can just force us out and use money and power to do it.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:23:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Dixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in full support of this bill. It has never made sense to me that we allow foreigners to own second, third, vacation homes and investment properties here while locals struggle paycheck to paycheck just to rent. Many are on the brink of homelessness if not already so. Many leave their homes on these islands just afford a life outside of affording a place to live. We owe it to locals first to provide solutions, opportunities and property before we allow foreigners (mainlanders included) a chance to take from the limited resources we have here to begin with. We currently compete with some of the wealthiest people in the world for a slice of paradise and all the average local here seems to want is a shot at owning a home where they've called home their whole lives. I believe this bill is a start in that direction and it's the right thing to do. Thank you for your time and consideration.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:23:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Napoleon Filippine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. Nothing would be better than to take the first step to help locals keep their land instead of being priced out of paradise time and time again. For so long many of us have been pushed out or struggling to keep up with an over inflated market and the government has done nothing to help this. With no action being taken it's as if either you don't want to do anything about it, or you just want us to deal with the outrageous cost of living. Either way you have the choice to step up and finally take action against this crisis. Do the right thing.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:24:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kjell Newall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Foreign entities should not own American soil

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:25:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Schweitzer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to prevent foreign buyer of real estate in Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:25:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayne Dolfo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because I feel all local families should not be priced out. They should be able to have a fair chance to purchase land here and not have to compete with foreign entities. Mahalo for allowing us to voice our opinion on this pressing matter!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:25:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hokualakai Blevins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, as a Hawaiian, born, raised, and currently living in Hawai'i, I have witnessed the struggles that we as residents face here on a daily basis. SB2617 may not be the "cure all" that we need, but it is a move in the right direction in preserving our way of life and reducing the burdens that we as residents face on a daily basis. Mahalo for taking the time to read my short testimony.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:25:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe Lyons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a kama'aina and young adult who wants to raise my family in Hawai'i, I support SB2617 not only for myself but for my future keiki and the friends I grew up with who continue to find it harder and harder to afford to live in our home. Let's put our future generations first but giving them at least a fighting chance to afford property in our home state. Outsiders purchasing our 'aina change the culture and rid our state of our greatest asset - our people. Imua SB2617!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:25:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aulii Adviento	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian born a and raised in Hawai'i I strongly support this bill.

Hawai'i has a huge housing shortage and high cost of living. We need to help those born and raised and native to this land obtain housing in their homeland. Stop taking advantage of Hawai'i and its precious resources which includes its people.

Hawai'i is not Hawai'i without its people.

Again, I stand is strong support of bill SB2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:26:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nawahine Kahoopii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. The current policy that allows foreigners to monopolize and exploit Hawai'i's land and resources for profit has to stop. SB2617 will put an end to the exploitation of Hawai'i's 'āina. Many other countries do the same to protect their citizens and precious resources. It's about time Hawaii stepped up and put our people before profit.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:44:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Logan Dykstra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with this proposal. We need to keep Hawaii owned by Hawaiians.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:26:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Piena	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in total support of this bill. I am a native hawaiian that wants my kids and their kids to be able to live in their ancestral land. Too many of my friends and family have left to the mainland because of the cost of living here is outrageous. With all these outsiders moving in our communities and culture are at risk. The aloha spirt and just common curiosity that I was brought up on are diminishing. Please ! Just do the right thing for the local people. Not the best thing for you bank accounts. I have never wrote a testimony before. But I believe this is a very important bill that needs my attention. Please don't make me lose faith in our leaders.

Mahalo,

Eric Piena

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:27:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael vitug	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm reaching out to wholeheartedly support this measure to prohibit or limit foreign ownership of land in Hawaii. What steps can we take to make housing and land affordable to not only Hawaiians but people who grew up here? We are already seeing a mass exodus of locals who cannot afford to live in the areas they were raised in. We cannot compete with foreign cooperations who have the backing of a foreign government to purchase land. When will we as a state decide enough is enough? When it is all sold? When there are none of us left? If the State Attorney General says it's unconstitutional, then change the constitution.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:28:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Pilanca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's already too late as it is, but if we don't pass this, it will be too late for our children to continue to call Hawaii, Home.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:28:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Vierra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:29:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leonard Nakoa III	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. This is the only way to get our people housed.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:29:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To allow entities that do not live here to own something as limited as land is unsustainable. That goes for mainland investors also

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:29:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2617. We need solutions to the lack of housing in the state of Hawai'i. Opposing foreigners from purchasing property in the state of Hawai'i is the first of many steps needed.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:34:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawailele Aki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2617

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:33:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra Alison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oahu has been my only home for 61 years. I think it's time to stop non residents from purchasing property on Oahu and give hard working families a chance to afford an affordable home or rent. As a paying taxpayer I would appreciate your consideration to pass SB2617-Long Overdue Bill.

Respectfully,

D.Alison

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:31:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Wong Wagner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support a Hawaii for Hawaiians and for generational families who have been here for years. I support people who live in the community, people who love Hawaii, not foreign interests groups or corporations who want to use and abuse Hawaii for money. I support SB2617 because I want Hawaiians to stay in Hawaii. Foreigners buying land in Hawaii and homes here should be illegal. We cannot go to China or New Zealand, etc (just as examples) and buy land and homes there, why can foreigners come here and buy and use our precious resources up? I SUPPORT SB2617 now.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:34:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoë Keliikuli-Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a young native Hawaiian mother I want to be able to afford a home where I can raise my children. I will not be able to do so if outside investors continue to buy out properties and build condos I can't afford. Hawai'i is home to all of us Hawaiians and it is not fair that the state put money before its people and its culture.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:32:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor Papapa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill due to the current housing situation for the people of the state.

Locals need the housing opportunity first.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:32:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to keep local residents home!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:35:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Layla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

100% oppose! Born and raised on Oahu. I am 46 years old and have not stopped working since I was 16. I would never be able to buy a home with my salary alone. This is ridiculous! Luckily with my husbands income we made it happen. This is not the case for many. We need to live very frugally now which is why I'm deciding to leave my state job for the DOE and get one with better pay (this is a whole other issue).

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:32:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam Aku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel we should only allow Local families buy homes here to keep our culture's and traditions alive. If we allow foreigners to buy up the land everything will change eventually. Let's keep Hawaii, Hawaii and let's give Locals a chance to own their own homes at home here in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:35:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kitch Richie Jackson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Ive lived here since 1988. My kids attended Lahainaluna high school. We want so badly to finally buy a home here, We have watched over the last 10 or more years people with multiple homes buying homes here in Maui to rent out to tourists. Bragging about how many homes they have. It hurts our hearts because we can not afford a million dollar house. My kids have no hope of ever having their own place to rent because all the rentals are so expensive. Please pass this important bill 🙏🌸

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:31:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaika	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not allowing foreigners to buy up properties local people need is a no brainer. I'm pretty sure everyone in a seat today has sworn to their communities during their campaign to "do what is right for everyone here in Hawaii" or something close to that was said. Well bills like this really show if you put your money where your mouth is. Foreigners have shown that they are fully incompetent on how to manage the land they own here. The fact they own land here at all just goes to show how this administration and the many before it put foreign interests first before anything else. Your loyalty should be to this place and this place only. And to the people of this place which allows us to illuminate our rich everlasting culture. Foreign owners misappropriate the usage and maintenance of their so called properties or real estate. You guys are the ones screaming "housing crisis" yet sell our land off to the highest bidder. Enough with the greed! Let's get Every local family under a roof. If you stopped shaking hands with China you've could have already done that. So it should end now. Enough with trying to fatten your own pockets while the people that unfortunately elected you suffer. Resources have been tainted and histories erased because people who own properties here don't care who use to live there, how meaningful these properties were/are to the common man. Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands. That is all

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:31:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donie Yamaguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must stop outsiders from grabbing our valuable land. Please take care of your kuleana and put us, Hawaii residents first. It is your job to do so.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:31:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Noa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian born and raised in Hawaii, I support this bill. I have seen many relatives forced to move away from their rightful homes because of such a high cost of living and an affordable housing crisis. When foreign governments or individuals are allowed to purchase our lands, it only facilitates this crisis.

First, My main concern is National Security, which means Foreign land ownership raises significant national security concerns. Allowing foreign governments or individuals to acquire large portions of our territory could compromise critical infrastructure, military installations, and sensitive areas. Restricting such transactions is a prudent measure to protect against potential espionage, sabotage, or other security risks that may arise when foreign entities control strategic pieces of land.

Secondly, my concerns about Hawaii's economic vulnerability by allowing extensive foreign land ownership could have detrimental effects. Large-scale land acquisitions by foreign entities increase competition for limited resources, driving up land prices and making it difficult for domestic businesses, farmers, and individuals to compete. By implementing restrictions on foreign land ownership, we can ensure that our economy remains stable and that our citizens have fair access to essential resources.

Next, our cultural heritage and ownership of our Aina. Our land is an economic asset and a repository of cultural and environmental significance. Allowing unchecked foreign ownership could lead to the degradation of natural resources and the loss of culturally significant sites. By limiting foreign ownership, we can better control and preserve our unique landscapes, historical sites, and ecological diversity.

Lastly, many countries worldwide have restrictions on foreign land ownership to protect their national interests. Implementing similar measures demonstrates a commitment to reciprocity and ensures that our nation is not exploited in international transactions. This approach encourages fair and balanced relationships between nations while safeguarding our domestic interests.

I hope our legislators do the right thing and pass this bill.

Respectfully,

John Noa

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:35:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainalu Keli'ikuli-Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was born and raised in Kāne'ohe and watched as all of my fellow native Hawaiian neighbors were forced to sell their houses and move to the continent. Now, my neighbors consist of people from California, Canada, Japan, and many other places that do not hold the same values we do as Hawaiians. They have cut down our native food trees and replaced them with "visually pleasing" trees that happen to be invasive like African Tulip. Our years of work on trying to be a sustainable neighborhood erased by outsiders who only care about the appearance of their property. This Bill needs to be passed to ensure not only our people and culture are preserved but the values we hold as well.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:36:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheree Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am a resident of Hawaii. Born and raised on Oahu. A citizen of the United States of America. I am in support of this bill that would not allow any foreign entities or investors to purchase or buy land or property on any of the Hawaiian Islands within the State of Hawaii. Hawaiian lands should be offered to only residents and people who have citizenship in Hawaii. We need to keep lands and property available for the Hawaiian people and residents because foreign entities and investors have driven the prices of homes and property into outrageous amounts leading to Kamaaina not being able to afford to buy a home here where they have been born and raised, and forced to leave these beloved islands because they cannot afford it anymore. We must stop this now!

Mahalo for allowing my testimony

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:37:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Lamarca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Perhaps most people reading this testimony do not know the what it's like to live below the average standard of living. & perhaps most of the people reading this also do not know what normal life in Hawai'i is like today. Had you grown up in less than adequate conditions, maybe you will understand the consequences that children suffer simply because their parents cannot afford to live in peaceful environments. Under constant stress, the children of underprivileged families do not only suffer socially, but physiologically. Unfortunately, these underprivileged kids are well within the current "middle class". A society that creates more struggling families can never be considered great. Consider yourselves lucky to be where you are & consider doing something to uplift the people. We aren't all private school graduates with rich parents nor are we all lazy, drug addicts with no future. I have worked in a variety of industries, surrounded by people of the higher class. What I've found is that they hold the power to change more than they think, yet choose not to do the right thing. Their perceptions are skewed, grown by greed & incentivized by money. But what they fail to see is sustainability, long term growth & the greater good. Who are you? Who do you want our children to become? Who are you in this struggle?

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:37:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brad Kakinami	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this Bill. This Bill will give local families a chance to get into the market. It is nearly impossible for locals to compete against someone not from here who will buy the house just as an investment. The Bill has Hawaii in its best interest. The pro's out weigh the cons in the grand picture. Please pass this Bill. Aloha, Brad

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:37:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hoku Pali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill!!!!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:37:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Hanakahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep locals in Hawaii. Stop foreign buyers of real estate! For our kids, kids sake! Cheehee

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:37:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hershel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill must be passed. It is what's right for the true kanaka. They deserve to be able to have the land that has been theirs to begin with.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:37:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor Muh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why should we allow non-citizens to purchase property if their home countries do allow us, or limit us, to purchase property?

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:37:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Keliiliki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family and I are in support of this bill. In order to keep people who've been born and raised here in the islands, we need to ban or at least limit the amount of outsiders and outside entities from buying here. Our people are being priced out of our home and it's not right. Foreigners are buying here and treating OUR HOME as a vacation spot and playground. Their houses and rooms sit vacant while our people are having to move away or are forced to work at least 2 jobs just to barely survive. Give the local people a chance and stop allowing foreigners from buying anymore lands here in Hawaii. We are of Hawaii, this is our home. We have no home to go back to like these foreigners do. Mahalo for your time.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:38:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandy Napuanani Aguirre	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Brandy Napuanani Aguirre support this bill. I come from a long line of native Hawaiian, Portuguese, and Filipino decedents here on the island of Maui. I support this bill because all the land and new development are all being bought up by people not from Hawai'i. Now our people cannot afford to live here. This was something that should have passed years ago before Hawai'i was bought out by foreigners pushing our prices and real estate up making it unattainable to our people. If we don't act now we will all have to move away and Hawai'i will never be the same. Mahalo for your time.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:38:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desiree Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Take a step to help keep Hawaii people living in Hawaii. Support.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:38:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zane Kekoa Schweitzer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I believe it is important for local residence to have every opportunity to invest into their homeland. By supporting this bill, I believe it will benefit our community and protect our communities from foreign investment.

Zahalo,

Zane

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:39:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill because I, like 51% of the Hawaiian population, live outside of our home due to settlers coming in and stealing our land. I've been priced out of my own home and have now had to settle on someone else's. Hawaiians should come first in their homes by having access to not only affordable housing but many other necessities unavailable because of their high costs.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:39:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juliann Chen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. People of Hawaii need to be able to afford to live in Hawaii for generations. High-rise condominiums & single family homes should be priced matched for Hawaii salary & cost of living. Foreign investors should not be able to easily purchase property in Hawaii, especially if its their 2nd, 3rd, etc vacation home. More rules and regulations need to be in place to provide local opportunities for home ownership.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:39:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mele Kidder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill because the I/ the people OF Hawai'i should be able to come back home and purchase a house on our homeland. How many times do we need to say "we are priced out of Paradise"?. I want my Kids to grow up in their homeland and not in a diaspora. Give the people of Hawai'i a reason to come back home!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:39:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mandy Sinclair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in full support of this bill and can't wait to see it implemented immediately.

mahalo!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:39:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Loo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill so my grandchildren have a chance to stay home in Hawai'i & maybe one day be able to purchase their own home or land.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:40:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julianne noh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support this bill

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:57:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsie Fukuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as a citizen of Kaneohe. The housing market in Hawaii is making it impossible for locals like me who have a good job as a nurse to purchase an apartment, much less a home to start a family in. Many other well paid and valuable occupations have locals who cannot afford to stay in Hawaii. We need affordable housing, not apartments with almost a \$1000 of hoa fees that are still upward of a \$1,000,000 for a 3 bed 2 bath. Having foreigners unable to buy in Hawaii gives much more inventory for locals as well as a lower price point, which would make it easier to afford considering the wages in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:57:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My family and I support this bill as many of us have had to move away from our home and raise our families in the mainland and my children will never get to live and grow up in the same environment I did growing up which causes them to loose there heritage and connection to their culture. Which is important coming from such a special place like Hawaii.

If we could afford a house at Home (Oahu) we would move home immediately and I think others would follow. So keeping out foreign buyers may be a way to bring the local families home instead of driving more away every year.

Mahalo,

John Armstrong

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:40:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Summer Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617 and the motion to keep Native Hawaiian land within the indigenous Native Hawaiian community and away from foreign purchasers. It is the right we have as k̄naka to remain on our ancestral and cultural land. It was a right taken away from our k̄puna, but it's a right that we must restore for our keiki and future generations to secure the longevity of our people, land, and culture. Aloha 'Āina. Land Back!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:57:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassandra Natividad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am local girl from Wahiawa. Growing up in our islands, I always considered our home paradise because of the natural beauty, the people, and growing up in a military based community my classmates from around the world would remind me of how lucky I was to be from here. A lot of these classmates would even claim to be native from the islands because of the mark that was made on them during their short deployment here. Fast forward to 26 years later, I still live in Wahiawa and can't imagine living anywhere else.

Hawaii, especially Oahu has been very competitive to live on. Homes are impossible to buy and even rent, food has become a luxury and now our local utility companies are no longer local. Although a lot of my neighbors, friends, and family move away and continue to convince me to join, I would never make that move. I continue to live here, although harsh because I believe the ones that are left here are the only ones we can rely on to rally together and make a change. The name of this bill is very fitting because it's sad to imagine and know that our people have waited all these years for something so little and impactful to happen. Although it saddens me that it has taken this long, lands were lost and contaminated I do believe this bill is the first step into the right direction for our people. This bill is not only long over due, but the only chance we have to bring our islands back to the locals. It will help us perpetuate our culture and preserve our local population. If this bill does not pass, I believe living here in the next 10 years will be impossible (as a local) and only possible to those who will use "paradise" as a luxury item waiting to be collected.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:41:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a native born and raised on the island of Maui I support this bill, it's about time! As a resident of west Maui I have seen over the years as our housing inventory be depleted by non Hawaii residents or out of state developers for profit. The people of hawaii need more affordable housing and in particular Lahaina Maui needs housing period. After the devastation of the Lahaina Wild Fire our community is left heartbroken, displaced and I'm sure for many hopeless. This bill would be one of many things to generate housing security for the people of Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:56:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ella Aki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a native Hawaiian female focused on the perpetuity of our indigenous people in the state of Hawai'i, I strongly support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo piha,

Ella Aki

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:43:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Faurot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:44:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ardean Rellin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

no foreign buying or out of state buying!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:56:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Medeiros-Criste	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed legislation related to real property acquisition in the State. The initiative to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property, with exceptions for de minimus indirect interests, is crucial for safeguarding our local real estate landscape.

Defining foreign principals and mandating registration for properties acquired before the measure's effective date demonstrates a commitment to transparency and accountability. The requirement for buyers to provide an affidavit attesting non-foreign principal status adds an additional layer of diligence, ensuring adherence to these regulations.

The authorization for the forfeiture of unlawfully owned or acquired real property, coupled with established penalties, sends a clear message that adherence to these regulations is not just encouraged but enforced. Such measures are essential to maintaining the integrity of our real estate market and protecting the interests of local residents.

While I acknowledge the concern regarding the state general fund expenditure ceiling, I firmly believe that the appropriation of funds for this initiative is a wise investment in securing the stability and fairness of our real estate environment.

In conclusion, I urge you to support and advance this legislation, as it addresses important issues surrounding foreign ownership of real property and establishes mechanisms to ensure compliance. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mahalo,

Mahealani Medeiros Criste

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:44:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I support the Long Overdue Bill because Hawaiian lands should stay in Hawaiian Hands. We shouldn't be continually pushed out from our native land due to foreign investors who either own Short term vacation rentals or are seasonal travelers that come a few weeks out of the year. Your priority should be to the locals and natives of the land. This bill should help in bringing down our median housing costs which in turn make Hawaii more affordable for those of us that work 2-3 jobs just to get by. The normal shouldn't be to struggle. It shouldn't be living paycheck to paycheck and it sure shouldn't be to never own a home! Every single one of my relatives do not own nor have ever owned property in their entire lives. How can you when the median is close to a million dollars while the minimum wage is still at \$10.10?!? Tell me you prioritize foreign investors and tourism without telling me!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:44:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keawe Denis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our state is so corrupt. The least we can do is take care of its people. Hawaiians first then the "locals" you guys blow everyone's mind and the corruption is coming out. God will win in the end all evil will fail.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:45:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayli Vanaken	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:45:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Wheeler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It is long overdue in Hawai'i. Brenton Awa is advocating for a long-standing problem in Hawai'i - the protection and access of land to Hawai'i residents. Too many of our Hawai'i residents, including many Native Hawaiians, find themselves leaving the state because the cost of living is too high, and the real estate speculation is catered to the international market, as opposed to the local residents who have deep relations to land, and to the society in Hawai'i. Hawai'i is being commodified to a rich international market, which is impossible to compete with as a local resident. Hawai'i residents need housing now.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:46:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harrison Stanley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am a Hawaiian citizen born and raised here on the island of Oahu. I have been living here my whole life of 34 years and i am witnessing a big change in Hawaii's real estate. I humbly come to you in the form of a letter to illustrate the ideas I have as a Hawaiian citizen about our real estate/renting market. With the new outside investors that come to Hawaii to buy land or houses here, we know the prices are then driven higher to the match the price at which the homes were sold. Most locals work to accommodate the rent at which the owner feels fit to lease their homes. In some instances, this forces the families to make a decision: either stay here and deal with high cost of living or move out of the state. I have been living here my whole life and I know first hand that it is tough to make it alone with one family trying to buy homes for their own. In recent years, we have been witnessing a rise in Hawaiians relocating to other states due to high living costs here in Hawaii. Also, I know that the state try to compensate the Hawaiians with the Hawaiian homes list, and I humbly ask how much Hawaiians are left to be approved? Also, to be on this list one must be 50% Hawaiian, how many 50% hawaiians are left to this day? Being part Hawaiian, there are limited amount of programs out to help Hawaiians with real estate, and if you are below 50 percent you do not qualify for this program. I highlight these thoughts in hopes that we can keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian Hands. Thank you for you time.

-Mahalo!

Harrison Stanley

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:46:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I very much support this bill

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:47:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. I am a resident of this state and have great pride in being Kanaka Maoli. I also serve in the armed forces. It hurts my heart to see that our people are still suffering after 150 years. I feel our state government rather cater to foreigners, tourism, and mainlanders to make a profit. I am a working class voter and am VERY disappointed at seeing SO MANY of our residents leaving this great state because WE are being priced out of OUR HOME! I should be able to afford to buy my own home in my own state, but because leaders want to let corporations come here and buy up land in order to build not so affordable housing and drive up rent or even housing prices, I can't do that. Instead, I'm left here struggling to make ends meet while worrying about making rent while the top lives the great life. This makes me physically sick whenever I think about it. I notice that this affordable housing...well, it's not so affordable and the lots that these homes are built on...the home is small inside and there are no yards really. Why is it that our people always need to take the back seat? Enough is enough already, let our people thrive and be able to live in our own state! You know I'm so disgusted at the way things are being run that I don't see the sense in voting a lot of the time because it seems too many times that our voices go unheard, BUT I still go and vote with the HOPE of a DIFFERENT outcome. Pass this bill. Stop the purchase of real property by foreigners AND mainlanders! It's time to take care of OUR people OUR home. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:48:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Keahi Ellison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I stand behind this bill and any bill that will get my family's home back to them on the north shore of Oahu. My family had no plans to sell the our family's land and property after my great grandma passed, but had no choice due to the system of Hawaii becoming a "state" and accruing property tax that has built up over time, which caused them to unwillingly and forcefully sell the property to only someone who could easily "afford it" and buy us out. As we all know, the Hawaiian be island wealth didn't come from the bank accounts our family didn't have, but instead the land familys have passed over generations at a time, our land and aina. Feel free to ask for any more information you can reach me via email Kai.ellison85@gmail.com or my phone number 805 5358798

Kai Keahi Ellison

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:55:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands. Plain and simple

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:48:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haylin chock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support bill SB2617. We need to protect our native lands from being overrun with foreign interests. If we don't act now to support this bill there will be a Hawaii with no Hawaiians left.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:55:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desiree K. Quidachay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am probably just one of many whos ohana has Moved to the states due to raising cost. NOT able to purchase homes because of high pricing. I live in a small town on Oahu located on the Windward Side BOTH my Parents worked and in 2017 they moved to the state's eventually 4 out of 7 of my siblings moved thru out the years, and thru that time they were able to PURCHASE homes for themselves. Last year my only child moved to the states a year after graduating high school to start a career and to raise a family. Its a sense of pain hurt but proud all at the same time. His answer was mom & dad I see how hard you folks work. I can't see my self LIVING pay check to pay check and renting a home or an apartment. He then got home a great job and was able to rent his first apartment for himself certified in his CDL. What more can a parent want as long as they are healthy and happy we SUPPORT HIS DECISIONS.

My husband & I ARE on the list for Hawaiian homestead which we probably will die before we are to leave our only child with a home my husband and I both have great jobs but it's still not enough my husband's credit is in good standing but thats still not good enough if we take the time and help out the people of Hawaii and the future Generations of being able to purchase homes land then we are able to leave a legacy for our future mo'opunas I SUPPORT BILL SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:54:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Shirk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because of the unprecedented rise in homelessness. I support this bill because the housing crisis has been overlooked for far too long with no solutions. This has gotten so out of hand that foreign investments take priority over the safety and well being of people born and raised in Hawaii. I'm not even from Hawaii and it's heart breaking to see the people of this moku suffer because capitalism. Money over people should NEVER be in that order. Priorities need to be address and reconfigured.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:48:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chase Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for bill SB2617, which seeks to restrict foreign investors from purchasing land in Hawaii. As a resident of Hawaii, I believe it is imperative to prioritize the preservation and protection of our land and natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations of Hawaiians.

Hawaii is a unique and culturally rich place, with a deep connection to its land and environment. The influx of foreign investment in real estate poses a significant threat to the integrity of our communities and the sustainability of our resources. Allowing foreign investors unrestricted access to Hawaiian land not only exacerbates issues of housing affordability and availability but also compromises our ability to maintain control over our own destiny.

By supporting bill SB2617, we can ensure that decisions regarding land use and development remain in the hands of those who are most invested in the well-being of Hawaii and its people. This bill will help safeguard our cultural heritage, promote sustainable development practices, and preserve the beauty and uniqueness of our islands.

I urge you to consider the long-term implications of foreign investment in Hawaiian land and to support bill SB2617 as a vital step towards protecting the interests of our community and safeguarding the future of Hawaii.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Chase Johnson

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:53:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha to the dear members of the committee,

As a proud resident of Hawai'i, I wholeheartedly support the "Long Overdue" bill (SB2617) that aims to restrict the purchase of property by foreigners in our beautiful state. The influx of foreign buyers has caused a surge in housing prices, making it increasingly difficult for residents to afford homes. This bill will ensure that our citizens have access to affordable housing and help preserve our culture and traditions.

I don't want to see Hawaiians leave their homelands. Without Hawaiians and locals, there will be no culture; without culture, there will be emptiness.

I urge the Senate committee to pass this bill and take a step towards protecting the interests of our community. It's time we put the needs of our people first and prioritize their well-being over the profits of foreign investors.

Mahalo/ Thank you for your consideration,

Ezgi Green

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:48:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karyn A Braun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a lifelong resident and Native Hawaiian, I am 100 % in support of limited real property sale to any foreigner or foreign principal. Foreign Principal in my opinion should be any non Hawaii resident or an absentee resident. A person who does not live here on a permanent basis (over 6 months of the year) should not be able to purchase any real property in Hawaii. Foreigners, and foreign investors buy up all the land, increasing the prices of real property for local residents. We are losing local residents by the thousands every year because no matter how much they work they are not able to survive and have a decent life in their island home. My husband and I make over 250,000 a year, but with our 2 children and my mom, we can still barely afford make our mortgage payments, or do things that normal people in the mainland do, like go on family vacations. I am one of the lucky resident who was born and raised here that is still able to stay here and enjoy my family home, but its hard, and living paycheck to paycheck in the norm here. Why would the leaders of our state not want to keep their families and future generations here? It is so sad what has happened to our islands, as year by year, local families leave, and when they leave, also the Aloha spirit leaves too. There is no more aloha, and only increasing crimes by local residents. Why? Because they realize that no matter how much they work, they cannot get by, so their only option is to steal, rob, and smash and grab. How sad that the legislature did NOT see this coming so many years ago, but still have not woke up to the reality that Hawaii is too expensive for its native people, and by allowing foreign buyers to keep buying up the land, Hawaii is on a path that we can never come back too. This is the saddest reality right now in Hawaii. We are not the only state trying to limit foreign land purchases, there are 5 other states pushing similar - BUT the main difference is that we have a VERY LIMITED LAND compared to the rest of the states. If our legislatures are scared to be the first to push this type of legislation, here is proof of the current bills pending in other states right now that are trying limited various foreign purchases of their lands:

California [SB 224](#) **What it proposes:** Restricts all foreign government purchases, leases, and controlling interests of agricultural land.

Arizona [HB 2376](#) **What it proposes:** Restricts sale and lease of state lands to foreign governments, state-controlled enterprises and any company headquartered in China, Russia, or Saudi Arabia. It also prevents countries on the State Department's list of State Sponsors of Terrorism from holding land.

Utah [HB 218 and HB 186](#) **What it proposes:** HB 218 would prevent any foreign government or any entity controlled by one from holding real estate, land and resource rights in the state. HB 186 prevents companies linked to the military of a foreign adversary—as defined by the Department of Defense—from holding real estate, land, and resource rights.

Montana [SB 256](#) **What it proposes:** Bans past and future land holdings and real estate purchases by foreign governments, entities or citizens from “adversary” nations.

Washington [HB 1412](#) **What it proposes:** Restricts sales and leases of agricultural land to foreign governments, state-controlled enterprises, foreign entities or foreign-controlled domestic companies.

Texas [SB 147](#) **What it proposes:** Banning sales or acquisitions of property by any government, entity or citizen of China, Russia, Iran or North Korea.

I support this bill 100% and believe we need to start now - to begin to limit any NON HAWAII RESIDENT or ANY ABSENTEE RESIDENT !! Lets keep Hawaiian land in Hawaiian hands !

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:49:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clint Matias	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Born and Raised on Kauai I see little to no support for us locals trying to buy a new home. Now with outside competition it is virtually impossible to acquire one. Me and my other half did not even get a chance to submit an offer on some homes due to outside foreign buyers paying up to 100 thousand over the asking price. As locals all we ask is for a fair chance at living in Hawaii if not the entire culture moves with the people. Let's keep Hawaii Hawaiian

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:52:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Nagamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom this may apply,

I am writing to you as a 30 yr old male, born and raised on Oahu, with generational roots. I have recently become a father to a beautiful baby girl and I am soon to be married to the love of my life. There is no dream bigger for us right now than the dream of home ownership. The dream of having a safe place for our children to play and grow. I call it a dream because although my fiance and I are both employed, her with a masters in early education, me as a federal employee making over \$40/hr, can hardly afford a 2 bedroom townhouse. It was never our dream to move away or raise our family anywhere else but Hawaii. We are connected to the land, the people, and the culture. As we all know we are seeing rates at an all time high. However the prices of houses remains at an all time high as well. Hard as it is already, we are also competing with foreign investors who's intent is only for financial gain or for a nice place to spend the winter. Not to have a safe place for their children to play, not to have a place to raise their children the same way their parents were brought up. The real estate industry is being driven by greed and making it increasingly difficult for the normal working class to afford anywhere. We are Hawaii. Hawaii is not just a place it's a people. A people that deserve a fair chance at making it here. I know there is no one fix-all solution but I strongly believe that this bill is a step in the right direction. Please consider the people of Hawaii, the keiki of Hawaii, and the future of Hawaii that you would like to see as you make your upcoming decision.

Thank you

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:50:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pohai George	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2617 must be passed so locals, especially Hawaiians, can have a chance at staying home. It isn't unconstitutional because 24 other states have a law that prevent foreign investments and private land ownership. There are many foreigners who own property that sit vacant while others have to jump through hoops just to find a place. Hawaii needs to become the 25th state to have a law that prohibits foreign investments and land ownership.

Thank you.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:51:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because our locals deserve better. More Hawaiians are leaving in droves due to the extreme high cost of living while foreigners from the mainland and other countries continue to buy property on the land that we were raised on for generations. While we have made it so easy for foreigners to buy property here, we made it extremely hard for locals to even afford rent and daily necessities. It is unacceptable and the people of Hawai'i are done with being screwed over by the ones who claim to be for us.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:50:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christopher woodward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian who is fortunate to have inherited property, I have a privilege that not many other Hawaiians do. It saddens me to see our Aina being parted and sold to foreigners who often don't understand the historical significance of the properties they may purchase and view it as a mere financial investment while many of those who were born and raised and come from families who have worked and cared for these lands over many generations are unable to obtain those same properties for themselves. I also have experienced first hand, people who try to buy the land from me regardless of what it means to me or my ohana just so they can build upon it only to rent it to others. Many of my family and friends have moved away because they couldn't afford or were unable to purchase property or a home because the cost of living here is so high. Because of this, foreigners who have the means to purchase said properties or homes immediately are given priority. With minimal help to native Hawaiians, they are left with no choice, but to leave these islands they have called home for so long. I am in support of this bill because it gives natives a fighting chance to keep hawaiian lands in hawaiian hands. Our culture has suffered much and is still recovering after all that we've gone through. I believe if this bill passes it will be a monumental stepping stone for us Hawaiians to begin to heal and grow and continue to malama this Aina as we have for generations.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:51:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonah cohen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am born and raised on the big island and I have seen so many foreigners moving here and not respecting the locals. I'm open to visitors and people that want to experience hawaii, what I am not open to is people that move here and don't respect people that are from here. People who buy houses, land, and businesses who aren't from here making it almost impossible for locals to live in their home.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:51:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celine Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is Celine Gomes. I am born and raised in Maui, Hawaii. I support this bill because, my older sister is 31 years old and she has moved away from home due to cost of living and not able to buy or afford her own home. I am 25 years old and planning and staying and living on my island home, Maui. We don't need anymore foreigners here, living in the state of Hawaii. They will not only take up our homes and places for actual local residents to live in the place we call home. They will also take jobs for locals to support themselves and now with the amount that is now displaced and homeless it's more important to make sure foreigners do not come and take up more space than what American citizens from the mainland have took. There are data that shows there are more than 50% hawaiians living in the mainland than in hawaii. There are programs for foreigners to come here experience our home life and go back to theirs. We don't need anymore. We need HAWAIIANS in HAWAII. We need to revive our culture and communities and we have came a long way as history wise but don't be the reason why we are slowing down and the hawaiian culture fading to the point where it's a tourism culture rather than a respectable ethnicity. If you help teach other outsiders to respect the people and our land we can help you as long as you are helping us. Help hawaiians stopped feeling oppressed and to do that is to listen and do one step at a time because we need to make sure our future generations are set because our past was a set for oppression and extinction. 8 native Hawaiian birds became extinct don't let our culture and people be extinct too. Help my sisters generation and mine and after me stay home and live at home there is no where else id rather be!

Mahalo-

Celine Gomes

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:00:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support NOT allowing out of state residence to purchase property in the state of Hawaii. I believe that if you would like to purchase a property in Hawaii then you should live here and occupy it.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:51:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celine Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is Celine Gomes. I am born and raised in Maui, Hawaii. I support this bill because, my older sister is 31 years old and she has moved away from home due to cost of living and not able to buy or afford her own home. I am 25 years old and planning and staying and living on my island home, Maui. We don't need anymore foreigners here, living in the state of Hawaii. They will not only take up our homes and places for actual local residents to live in the place we call home. They will also take jobs for locals to support themselves and now with the amount that is now displaced and homeless it's more important to make sure foreigners do not come and take up more space than what American citizens from the mainland have took. There are data that shows there are more than 50% hawaiians living in the mainland than in hawaii. There are programs for foreigners to come here experience our home life and go back to theirs. We don't need anymore. We need HAWAIIANS in HAWAII. We need to revive our culture and communities and we have came a long way as history wise but don't be the reason why we are slowing down and the hawaiian culture fading to the point where it's a tourism culture rather than a respectable ethnicity. If you help teach other outsiders to respect the people and our land we can help you as long as you are helping us. Help hawaiians stopped feeling oppressed and to do that is to listen and do one step at a time because we need to make sure our future generations are set because our past was a set for oppression and extinction. 8 native Hawaiian birds became extinct don't let our culture and people be extinct too. Help my sisters generation and mine and after me stay home and live at home there is no where else id rather be!

Mahalo-

Celine Gomes

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:01:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We the people of Hawai'i feel this is something needed in this state if there's anything room for us to stay with all the economic changes and price hikes over the past years will leave us to fall short trying to purchase homes here as a local. There needs to be thing this drastic in change to make it a local state again instead of foreigners buying up everything with there fortunes of else where buying up all of our paradise, and if not when will we see any change without bills like this passing through to help our system and our working people who was born and raised here that has no thought of leaving but ultimately being pushed out this state.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:01:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a home owner, father, husband, first responder and resident i fully support this. Help our residents and children have a future on this island.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:01:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawohikukahi Kilaulani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being Hawaiian is a battle in its own. We've been fighting for what is rightfully ours for generations. We grew up with the idea that we would raise our families here, malama the aina we were raised on, we would be able to keep our culture and people alive by simply existing and keeping space in our home on our land. The reality of our people and future is slowly being ripped away from the people of Hawaii, especially the kanaka. We watch as our loved ones are forced to move away to "live a better life" or have to make the hard decision that they can only "live comfortably" on the continental. This shouldn't be our reality, but it is. Something our kupuna have fought for, our people have fought for us slowly disintegrating when more and more outsiders buy out the people of Hawaii. Hawai'i cannot be Hawaii without Hawaiians. It's a nightmare on how quickly Hawaii is disappearing. The people are moving away, the land is being brought out and the culture is dying. It is our Kuleana to malama our aina and work together to create a future not just for us now, but our kids and our kids kids. We need to stand up for ourselves and keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. We got enough things taken away from us, our monarch, our language and our culture. It's time we take back what is rightfully ours and restore what is broken. So our nightmare of a reality can be corrected. So that Hawaiians can heal and come home. We, the people of Hawaii deserve to be living on our land and raising our people on our aina.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:02:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Carpenter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill. Foreigners should not be able to buy property, land, apartments buildings, houses, etc in Hawaii. We need to keep these places for Kanaka Maoli.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:02:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Camp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill I believe it's time to make a change so our local families can afford and have a chance to buy a home in hawaii

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:03:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keke Manera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To all whom this concerns, I am writing in behalf of my entire ‘ohana in SUPPORT for SB2617. If other states can implement this, Hawai‘i should be able to take back some sort of control to prevent foreigners/investors etc from buying up lands/properties/homes here. We should be able to have this here for Hawai‘i. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!!

I think that the State of Hawaii Attorney General Anne E. Lopez needs to evaluate her stance because WE THE PEOPLE do not find this bill unconstitutional!!! The people of Hawai‘i are tired of the CONSTANT exploitation of these islands. I wonder why she's the only one practically in opposition to this bill being passed. What is she gaining from foreigners having their way with these islands, hhhhmmm??? It's sickening! Please those with a morale compass and compassion for the community, please pass this bill so that we can give our people here a chance to stay here where we're from, where we belong. So many of our local community including Native Hawaiians/Kanaka Maoli have had to move due to being priced out! GENTRIFICATION and or worse yet, forced to being houseless!!! For shame!!! This madness needs to stop. We should be able to buy a home to raise our families!!!! What's happening to Hawai‘i is UNCONSTITUTIONAL, it's CRIMINAL. So again, me and my family & friends are in strong support of SB2617 AND YOU ALL SHOULD BE TOO! Mahalo

Keke M.

Pearl City

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:03:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katelyn sarme	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support this bill. Stop accommodating people who dont respect or care about Hawaii's culture and its people!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:05:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dillion Rainwater	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this. As someone who grew up on uo this Island and do not want to leave to be able to buy a home. Especially because I have started to save money to buy a home and am realizing that a typical single family home may not be in my Ball park unless I make a lot more money. As some who works 5-6 days a week, this blows my mind!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:05:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gunther M. Kanehailua Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am here in full support of bill sb2617 as I am a native of Oahu and have lived here all my life. And I love my home and am not planning on leaving any time soon. But I've seen over the years countless native families move away cause they were priced out of their homes forced to live elsewhere as foreigners come in and buy up properties and rent/sell them out to the locals that remain or other foreigners.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:07:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a kanaka maoli, I am strongly against foreigners buying land in Hawaii. King Kamehameha III made it illegal to buy and sell any property here in Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:07:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor Hauanio Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Legislation should give the local people of this island a chance to get a house here before any outside investors or rich individuals from the mainland, they buy out all the homes here then rent it out I know of at least 15 people that's from the mainland that owns homes here and I'm born and raised here and still haven't have my own land or house here because of the prices is like half a million for a home it's hard for us to obtain credit to get a loan for that amount I just feel as kanaka of big island Hawaii that is Hawaiians should already be in a home and on a piece of land that we can pass on to our keiki so they have no worry about finding a place or renting out from someone who owns a place here that lives in the mainland

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:07:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seth August	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The strain from allowing foreign investors to come in and buy real estate in the state of Hawaii, has measurably impacted the ability for locals, including native Hawaiians, to not be able to easily afford buying a home here. As an individual who works in conjunction with the real estate industry, I have witnessed this first hand. I believe this is the first step of several, that should be taken to eliminate and hopefully eradicate the housing crisis that exists in this state. This includes the occupation of homes that could be housing local families but are made into both vacant real estate holdings, as well as properties used for rental investment who's rent leaves our shores immediately, and thus halting the loss of fueling of commerce abroad rather than locally. If we want a strong Hawaiian economy it starts by focusing on strengthening its profits to stay on the islands generating it.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:08:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josh Lockhart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm strongly in support for this bill. Our land should stay with our people. Foreign entities should never be able to purchase land.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:08:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Watson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I wish to submit my strong support of this SB 2617 to prevent non-residents and foreigners from purchasing properties here in Hawaii. Locals are suffering from foreign investors driving up rental prices and paying above asking price in cash for homes that come on the market. Good hard working kama'aina don't have a chance. Greedy developers and foreign investors destroy the fabric of our communities and disregard the Aloha spirit which defines Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Patrick Watson

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:08:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradley Pacheco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This should've happened years ago it's definitely been long overdue. We the people of Hawaii need to keep our lands to be sustainable and keep the islands free from foreign investors who continue to desecrate the land with little to no benefit for the actual people of Hawaii

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:09:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KUIOKALANI L GAPERO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kakoo wau i keia palapala.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:09:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being third generation to live and work in Hawai'i, I am in support of SB2617. Local people have earned and worked for the right to be able to afford and buy land here, without having to compete with foreigners who have no other intent other than making a profit without being here on the islands.

Rejection of SB2617 will result in much of the local population forced to move else where, and thus losing majority of what we are so proud to claim, "the aloha spirit" here in the islands. If locals move, tourism will only decline. How can you have the Hawaiian culture and spirit without Hawaiians!? The answer is you cannot. Passing this bill will also increase our economy, for it will keep money in the state, rather than it going to people that don't even live here.

PLEASE Vote to pass SB2617. It is not only fair, but it will increase the economy status by keeping money in the state.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:09:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blane Andrade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. It's time for the Star of Hawaii to start putting their residents first!!!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:09:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aubrey Tatum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii local this bill is so important for our people. Hawaii is built by it's people. And currently it's near to impossible for locals to afford purchasing housing in their own home. Allowing foreign real estate investments to take place takes away opportunity from locals that live here, work here, and support local economy. Allowing foreign investment takes money out of Hawaii; investors charge locals rent, all the while the investors are not residing or contributing to Hawaii's economy. Hawaii needs this! The future of Hawaii NEEDS this. The people of Hawaii NEED this!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:09:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Long overdue. Pushing Hawaiians out of hawaii

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:10:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chaelyn Mckeown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a Mother of 5. My Husband makes decent money. We have been saving to buy a house to set our keiki up for the future and beyond, but ever since covid, it seems as though more and more foreigners have been buying our lands. The prices are higher now because of the high demand & Hawaiian families like us can't even live in decent places. Our hope is, if we allow only locals to buy, the prices will be fair. A million dollars for a single family 3 bedroom no yard is a ridiculous price, we don't stand a chance. Our keiki dont stand a chance. We dont make enough to afford a decent lifestyle, but we make too much to qualify for ebt or free medical. We need this bill. We need someone to care about Hawaiians. We need someone to care about what is fair... not greed.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:10:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Lalic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617 as I am a local person of Hawaii and as many locals I do not own a home and on the verge of one day soon having to move off the island due to this housing crisis in Hawaii. I am desperately doing my best to stay here as my mother is sick and I am caring for her sharing the duties with my family who remains here, my father is still working two jobs my brother has his own family to take care of and is working multiple jobs as well and my sister unfortunately was priced out and had to move to the mainland. My hope is that a bill like SB2617 restricting foreign purchases of property will help the local people of Hawaii and be the start of many bills that will help families stay together on the island and continue to build future generations. Lets please start thinking and taking care of the local people of Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:10:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of sb2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:11:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mia Pelly	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i is suffering. The natives are not going to be able to live on their own land. Please stop viewing this state as a profit and start seeing the people. You are auctioning something that isn't yours. Keep the land in Hawaiian hands and STOP viewing this beautiful place as a price tag. It's unholy, unjust and evil to be selling to the highest bidder of non residents. The money is never put into the community. Please think of the people, the keiki, the aina. Think about Hawai'i, not the price.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:11:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamalei Ontai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to show my full kāko‘o or support to this bill. I think this bill should‘ve went into the judicial system 50 years ago. I am tired of being out bid and out lived by foreigners in my OWN HOME. We should have first rights to purchase land/ homes here in Hawai‘i. I cannot fathom enough how much it hurts our people to keep allowing foreigners to purchase homes here in Hawai‘i when our resources are already so limited. Please do the right thing. Allow this bill to pass!

Me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,

na Kamalei Ontai (a Native Hawaiian speaker, mother, teacher and advocate for our kanaka)

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:12:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paumalu Cassiday	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I have read the bill in its entirety and am in full support of the entire thing. **NO AMMENDMENTS.** It would be a crime against Hawaii locals to kill this bill and I hope the AG and all others have the good conscience to put our people **FIRST.** This type of legislation is addressing a **NATIONAL ISSUE** of **FOREIGN INVESTORS** causing an **AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS** in numerous cities and states across the US. Such legislations has **ALREADY BEEN PASSED IN OTHER STATES.** So the argument that it is not constitutional is moot point. Anyone arguing so must not care about the **MASS DISPLACEMENT** of our people. The "STATE" of Hawaii is not constitutional either--as are many gross violations of our sovereignty and basic rights (water, human rights, etc.). Please stand on the right side of this issue when the time comes to vote. This is the first time I have **EVER** stopped my day to submit testimony for a bill. For me, this is a crucial piece of legislation that needs to pass. E mau ke ea o ka 'aina i ka pono. This bill will help that hold true. Mahalo nui

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:12:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maanoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If you really care about this state and the LOCAL people that make it what it is, you need to support this bill. Local families shouldn't have to move to the mainland because they can't afford to live here. Native Hawaiians should all be in the place that their ancestors belong to. The State of hawaii is just a piece of rock floating in the ocean. What makes this state great is the people, the REAL people of hawaii. Do the right thing for once. Stop thinking about your wallet and do good for the people.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:12:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Weldon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill along with every other US citizen currently trying to buy a home in Hawaii.
Time for change.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:12:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roy Machado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaiian, Born and raised in Kalihi. I have seen the changes in our State where foreigner's have brought out our land and homes. Pushing out so many Good Hawaiian people to the US. Enough is enough. When does it end. We are on the brink of extinction in our own Land. What will happen to our grandchildren. It's about time we do something. Thank you Senator Awa for Standing up for our Kanaka.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:12:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon G	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am for this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:13:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Rowe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in favor of this bill that excludes foreign buyers from buying land in Hawaii. It is a measure that needs to happen to make it possible for local people to have a chance at home ownership. For too long this State has watched NON resident people and entities with larger budgets than local people and they in turn scoop up properties and leave nothing but higher costs and pricing local residents OUT of the market.

For those who say that the law is unconstitutional I ask that they consider two things. First That they utilize the precedent that is set in other states.

Additionally I think that is a very short sided excuse to claim that the law is Unconstitutional. The State has chosen several positions to adopt that are NOT Constitutional . One example is the Sensitive places law as well as other laws that relate to Firearms. These laws are challenged and likely overturned. Law makers know this yet they still adopt these unconstitutional policies.

So if there were ever a time to support and defend a law , it is with this bill. This bill is the opportunity to stand up for the local residents and not hide behind a weak position of possibly unconstitutionality.

I urge you folks to pass this law so that this generation and next generation have the opportunity to own property in Hawaii and we can take steps to keep Hawaiians in Hawaii.

This legislative session should be focused on the betterment of local people (Hawaii Residents) in all ways. YOU all have been gifted the ability to make Hawaii the best it can be for the local people and I pray that you all take that to heart and wake up every morning with doing good for the people. The reward is the service. Thank you for your service.

Ben Rowe

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:13:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alba Bermudez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No more land grabs , lands for locals!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:14:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Devon Steck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Please restrict foreign buyers to purchase properties in our islands. Too many homes are already owned by individuals who do not reside in Hawaii and we need housing for our local, native workforce

Mahalo,

Devon Steck

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:14:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen R Henderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As both a Native Hawaiian and resident who had to go through massive hurdles just to afford and purchase property for myself and my family to live, I am in strong support of this bill.

Many other states have measures that limit foreign actors from purchasing property without the intense supply issues that face Hawaii given it is both an island as well as the only home for Native Hawaiian families.

I urge all involved to move this forward - to turn this bill into policy giving presidency and space for our local and native hawaiian families to be able to raise families and to protect real estate supply for those who are in most need.

please put our families first,

Mahalo,

Stephen Henderson

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:15:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyrone Matthews	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support this Bill. It has been long overdue. It's Time to put "our" people first instead of non residents. Let that sink in, non residents.... we need to put the residents of Hawaii before the interest of non residents.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:16:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seth Holck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support of sb2617. We need our lands for our future generations!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:17:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I FULLY SUPPORT SB 2617. Hawai'i has very little land space. Priority must be given to the Kanaka Ma'oli, definitely NOT to FOREIGNERS ! Mahalo.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:18:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kendra Mendonca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe this is a long overdue bill that will be the only way to keep our children able to stay here in Hawaii, it is the only way to ensure that we locals will ever be able to afford a house here. I've been waiting my whole life for someone to fight for this bill to be passed to give us a chance to prosper here in our islands. I am 55 years old and I pray every day that I will one day see my kids and grandkids own their own home here instead of having to make the decision to leave the only home they've ever known for a better life. Stop selling our ancestral lands to foreigners and mainlanders as investments when the people who live here have nothing. It all starts with this!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:18:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Albert Ainuu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:19:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keala Watson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill which prohibits sale of Hawaiian real estate to foreigners. I am Native Hawaiian on the DHHL waitlist since 2007, and still not even close to the front of the list. A piece of our hearts leave each time a family, friend, or loved one moves away to the mainland. Keep Hawai'i for Hawaii's unique people.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:19:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanne Alford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Should have happened a long time ago.

An island state as unique as Hawai'i, both culturally and geographically must have protections to sustain fair and healthy opportunities for the communities to thrive.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:19:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kau'ionalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is what Hawaii needs now, I wish a bill like this could've been passed sooner but it's better late than never. The people of Hawaii do not deserve to be priced out of paradise. We the people that call Hawaii home should be able to buy houses and raise our Ohana for generations to come without being worried of being out bid by outsiders when it comes to purchasing homes here in Hawaii. Other countries and states have similar bills like this that protect their people and so should Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:19:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Fong Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill! Locals need the housing! Enough is enough! Support local families and put Hawaiiis people first!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:19:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Treasure	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii residents, and especially the native Hawaiians, have been strong-armed out of land and access to land, including business opportunities and especially housing, since the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. This bill represents a chance to begin to make things more fair, by limiting foreign interests in the ownership of Hawaiian land.

With the Lahaina disaster adding to the already incredible need for housing and business opportunity for locals, this bill seems absolutely necessary for the continued growth and safety of our communities. To reject this bill would be to embrace corporate and foreign profits before looking after this community from which you, our representatives are from. You come from the opportunities these communities afforded your parents and grandparents parents. You owe it to these local communities to put our interests FIRST.

Shame on anyone who would try to stop this bill from passing. Shame on predatory investors from overseas, and shame on the greed that has prevented this from happening sooner. Our communities are suffering. Please make the right decision.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:20:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nainoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a concerned resident of Hawaii, this bill was needed to be passed the last century. The selling of our lands to foreigners and out-of-state buyers has been a problem for the local people for years. Hawai'i residents should have been prioritized in favor of island properties. For too long our government has prioritized their personal gains and profits over its people. What will be left for our posterity and future generations? Las Vegas? Without the people there is no Hawaii. We've sold off enough lands to the rich and powerful elites. Do the right thing and keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. Go Big Red!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:20:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaina Caspino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Bill SB2617

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill SB2617, which seeks to restrict foreigners from purchasing land in Hawai'i. As a resident of Hawai'i, I am deeply concerned about the impact of foreign ownership on our local communities, cultural heritage, and natural environment.

Hawai'i is more than just a destination; it is our home, rich in history, tradition, and natural beauty. However, the unrestricted acquisition of land by foreign entities poses a significant threat to the social fabric and identity of our islands. We have witnessed the displacement of local residents, the exploitation of our resources, and the erosion of our unique way of life due to unchecked foreign investment.

By enacting measures to limit foreign ownership, Bill SB2617 will help safeguard our land, resources, and communities for future generations of Hawaiians. It will empower local residents to retain control over their ancestral lands, promote sustainable development, and ensure equitable access to housing and natural resources.

Furthermore, restricting foreign ownership aligns with the principles of self-determination and sovereignty for the indigenous people of Hawai'i. It honors their rights to govern their lands and protect their cultural heritage from external exploitation and commodification.

In conclusion, I urge you to support Bill SB2617 as a critical step towards preserving the integrity and autonomy of Hawai'i. Let us prioritize the well-being of our communities and the sustainability of our environment over the interests of foreign

investors. Together, we can uphold the spirit of aloha and safeguard the future of our beloved islands.

Mahalo for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Shaina Caspino
Wai'anae Resident
shainacaspino@live.com

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:20:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C Shigeta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:21:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James R Cabodol Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha if you are voting on this bill as a married kanaka of 3 young children I urge u to understand that this bill presented to you is not helping the people of Hawaii and want you to know that if you keep selling OUR land NOT the governments land to foreigners or people outside of Hawaii should be against the law, the local people of Hawaii need to move away because of the increase in cost of living rather then increase in pay. You all need to understand why this bill is being presented too you all because the actual people that care about Hawaii and it's people is truly for us WE THE PEOPLE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:21:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehau Quinata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is the first bill in a long time that I have actually stood behind. As a Native Hawaiian born and raised in Hawai'i, I 100% support this bill and the ban on foreign entities purchasing land/homes in Hawai'i. Native Hawaiians make up only 47% of the population in Hawai'i. Unfortunately I'm not included in that 47% due to the high cost of living in Hawai'i. Most Native Hawaiians move away from Hawai'i due to them not being able to afford to live in Hawai'i or buy homes/land. Yet we see billionaires and people who know nothing about Hawai'i (other than what they see on TV) buying homes and taking all the land in Hawai'i. It's heartbreaking to see how many Hawaiians need to move because they can't find affordable places to live or buy. Hawai'i has turned into a highly desirable exotic place filled with people who don't respect and love the aina as the Native Hawaiians do and understand. These lands are sacred and the longer we allow foreigners to buy it the smaller and smaller chance there will be for actual locals and natives to live in Hawai'i. Our islands are small there is only so much land that can be used/owned. If we allow foreigners to keep purchasing land, what will be left for us? What will be left for our Keiki and all the future generations to come? You can make a difference and change history. Do the right thing. If not for us now, then for the future generations to come. Mahalo & God bless!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:21:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaylou Cabrera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the name states this is long over due. Put us locals first. Give us oppportunity to actually own a home here. It's been years of rising housing costs due to out side and foreign buyers. Please this bill may just give us a chance to purchase and own a home here.

Mahalo

From a born and raised lahaina girl

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:21:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felicia Abrojena	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My answer to this bill is actually quite simple.

We must insure there is "enough Hawai'i left" for our Hawaiian children and grandchildren.

Our future generations deserve their birth given right to live in their homeland. Many of today's Hawaiians are being forced to move to the mainland. This will only increase as our children grow old. Hawai'i cannot be Hawai'i without its people.

Supporting this bill will give the keiki of our future a fighting chance at being able to live in Hawai'i.

Let that sink in. Passing this bill will help to keep Hawaiians in Hawai'i. It doesn't get any simpler than that.

Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:22:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leinani Okuno-Orsatelli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Leinani. I am writing to support bill SB2617. As a local, born & raised here for generations, it has become increasingly difficult for housing, especially buying one. I have witnessed first hand my own mother trying to buy a house of her own & did not get it because someone out of state made a higher bid than her & they went with the larger bid. Unfortunately, we have never found a new one.

I, personally, would like to buy my own house & being that housing is already scarce, it would be a lot harder to purchase if we have foreign people trying to bid on the housing as well. I've seen over the years our own local people being driven away because we simply cannot get a house in our own home town.

I strongly agree that this bill should be passed because we need to think about the people that has been here, the locals. We are already only known for tourism, so with this bill, the locals can be local & the foreigners can specifically be tourists. In neighborhoods all throught my home town, I can say that most of the housing on the street is not local people... Unfortunate & sad to say the least but I have high hopes that if this bill is passed we will have more local homes & families here to stay.

Mahalo for listening to my testimony. Aloha

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:22:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Floyd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Kristen Floyd. I am a Native Hawaiian from the island of Maui. My parents both come from Native Hawaiian descent. My ancestors come from this land, however, it is my greatest fear that within my lifetime, myself, along with my children, will no longer be able to call Hawaii home. For decades we have seen the foreign investors come and turn our land for their profit, inevitably driving up the cost of everything, driving out our local families one by one. At the rate Hawaii is going, within 10 years or so we will completely lose its working class. More local shops will close down, teachers will leave, doctors have already started to leave, restaurants will close, the list goes on. Look at our bus driver crisis. No affordable homes to house us workers, there will be no one to run our schools, our hospitals, our restaurants, etc. The reason we have such atrocious Health care and education is because all of our good teachers and doctors can't afford to live here! They leave for better pay and better housing in other states It will only get worse unless we do something now! Right now! Before it's too late! The systems we have in place are clearly not working! Our people are leaving everyday! Soon, it will be you, our own government officials who won't even be able to afford a home, get good health care, get our children a good education. What are you guys waiting for? This is the only solution we have! I support this bill because it's the only answer anyone has given us that makes sense. That can make change immediately! We don't have 5, 10, 15 years to wait for things to take affect and homes to be built. We need a solution immediately. We are on the brink of losing Hawaii as we know it and it seems like no one cares. No one knows how dire this situation is, and how we urgently need to do something right now to save what we have left. I'm not even talking about the Native Hawaiian population in Hawaii, I'm talking about all of us, the low and middle class citizens who are all one eviction notice away from leaving Hawaii. Leaving their family home for generations, because they are being priced out of paradise. If this bill and others like it gets killed, then so will the future of Hawaii. Mark my words. We will not save this place unless we prevent these foreign investors from coming in and taking whatever we have left. This bill will be the first of its kind meaning it will finally put the people first!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:22:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leia Kahaleauki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2617. I am currently a Native Hawaiian living out of state because I can no longer afford to live in my ancestral homeland. Foreign entities are driving prices to high and out of range for us Native Hawaiian.

Leia Kahaleuki

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:22:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darnell Domingo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. Stop the acquisition of land and property by non-residents in Hawaii and the United States. Stop the outside investors who do not contribute to our state.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:24:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thor Dyrenborg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617 as it is what is best for the people of Hawai'i. Keeping Hawai'i in the hands of its local people and not in foreign investors who do not have the best interests of Hawaii at heart and are only looking to extract resources and profits from the local people.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:24:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harley Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support SB2617. Leave Hawai'i for Hawaiians! Mahalo!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:24:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was born and raised in Hawaii. If you ask me if I'm able to afford to purchase a home today in Kapolei and pay for my sons tuition for school, the answer is no. I sold my house to afford to pay for my sons tuitions. It was a day I will never forget when I decided to sell my home to make sure I was able to pay for their education. Today we rent a 2 bedroom house for a family of 4. I would love to have my boys have their own rooms but reality is I can't afford it. This bill will keep properties in the hands of Americans and help keep local families home in the islands. I support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:25:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tuala Fautanu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I never agreed on foreign people purchasing land from our home to begin with especially if they are not even US Citizens. You as legislators and government official should be opposed to these foreigners purchasing home and land before your own Hawaii citizens because it never works for our own people. So I support this Bill 100% and hope you folks will vote for this bill as well if you folks support our aina and ohana of Hawaii!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:25:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence DeCosta III	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Senate of Hawaii,

I am writing to submit my testimony regarding the pressing matter of foreign investors acquiring property in Hawaii. I earnestly advocate for measures to restrict and deny foreign investors from purchasing our invaluable Hawaiian land.

My unwavering support for this stance stems from the adverse effects of such investments on our local community. Foreign investors have been instrumental in driving the real estate market to unprecedented heights, resulting in soaring property prices. This surge in costs presents a formidable barrier for local individuals, particularly males, making it increasingly challenging for them to afford homes in the very state they were raised.

Preserving the cultural and economic integrity of our beloved Hawaii is of paramount importance. I beseech the Senate to consider and implement measures that safeguard our precious Hawaiian land from the overwhelming influence of foreign investors, ensuring a sustainable and equitable future for our community.

Mahalo,
Lawrence DeCosta III

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:25:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Grady	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:25:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pilahi Ignacio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2617. Born and raised in Hawaii, we are already limited to available property. Hawaiian Homes wait list is ridiculous and Hawaiians need to have all lands protected from foreigners!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:25:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TJaye Forsythe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am tired of seeing my people having to move out of state to make a living because outside foreigners, who have lots of money and buy up all the land all the real estate pricing us out of paradise.

Then majority of them only come here to vacation and utilize those homes as Snowbirds.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:25:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
vincent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:25:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Gray	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii's citizens (those that call this pae 'āina home), do not need to compete with foreign buyers of our real estate, whether agricultural or residential. That includes competing with the military, who receive VA loans (no down payment necessary) and housing allowances. Keep Hawai'i's lands in Hawai'i's hands. Our children (especially) those of native Hawaiian ancestry (regardless of blood quantum) deserve to be able to purchase affordable housing without competing with outside interests from other states (i.e. California) or other countries like China, Japan or Canada. Remember, no Hawaiians, no aloha! Aloha is what makes this place special!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:25:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Thyne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,,

YES, this would help the Residents of Hawaii!! Nice to know someone is finally looking out for the people of Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:26:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support prohibition of foreign entities seeking to purchase property in Hawaii

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:26:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Deguair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I 100% support and urge this bill to be passed. Hawaiian lands have been stolen for hundreds of years and the native people need laws to help protect their state. This has been passed for other states in the US and I strongly support the passing of this in Hawaii!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:27:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
julie schaus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support sb 2617

keep Hawaiian land in the hands of American citizens

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:27:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carissa Peters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Hawaii Bill SB2617 - Prohibiting Foreign Principals from Acquiring Property

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for Hawaii Bill SB2617, which seeks to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring property in Hawaii. As a resident who lives and works in Hawaii, and pays state taxes, I believe this legislation is crucial for safeguarding the interests of the local community.

The proposal aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, ensuring that residents who contribute to the state through their hard work and tax contributions have equal access to housing and property. By limiting foreign acquisitions, SB2617 aims to address concerns related to housing availability, affordability, and the overall well-being of the local population.

Furthermore, this bill acknowledges the unique challenges faced by Hawaii residents in the real estate market. It seeks to maintain a balance that protects the rights of individuals who call Hawaii home while promoting responsible and sustainable property ownership practices.

I urge the committee to carefully consider the positive impact SB2617 can have on the local community's access to housing and the overall quality of life for residents. This legislation is a step towards creating a fair and inclusive environment for those who have invested their time, effort, and resources into making Hawaii their home.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Carissa Peters
1520 Ward Avenue #602
Honolulu HI 96822
Peterscarissa@gmail.com
253-255-5705

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:27:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew moss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to show support for this proposed bill. I believe this will help the local people as well as residents of Hawaii who have given everything they have to be able to stay in this beautiful state. Times are tough and non residents have created a playing field most of us here in Hawaii cannot compete in. We cannot afford to live here anymore let alone support our families with the necessary goods and services. This bill will be a step in the right direction of making Hawaii more affordable for the people that Hawaii is home too.

I support this bill in full faith.

-drew

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:27:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Kala McShane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2617 - Elijah Kalā McShane and Awakened Aloha Global LLC

Elijah Kalā McShane

3347 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI, 96817

Awakened Aloha Global LLC

Senate Committee: CPN/TCA

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617 on behalf of Elijah Kalā McShane and Awakened Aloha Global LLC. This legislation aligns with the values and objectives that our organization holds dear, and we believe it will contribute positively to the well-being of the community and the state of Hawai'i.

Elijah Kalā McShane and Awakened Aloha Global LLC have consistently demonstrated a commitment to fostering community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices. SB2617, as proposed, reinforces these principles by maintaining the integrity of our island home in the real estate and housing sectors.

The proposed legislation not only supports the values we hold at Awakened Aloha Global LLC but also aligns with the broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. We believe that the passage of SB2617 will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

We encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. Elijah Kalā McShane and Awakened Aloha Global LLC wholeheartedly endorse SB2617 and are hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Elijah Kalā McShane

Founder, CEO

Awakened Aloha Global LLC

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:27:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ronelle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill SB2617. It is long overdue, and similar bills have been passed in other states. It is time legislators do what is right and good for the people of Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:28:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is long overdue to be passed and everyone knows it

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:29:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse P Neumann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:29:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sina sinclair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS IN HAWAIIAN HANDS !!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:29:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support sb 2617

Hawaiian land for Americans only

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:31:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jendale Kahuanui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill & in complete agreement that this is long overdue. For too long foreigners have taken advantage of our land and resources and taken away opportunities for the native people of Hawaii to better their lives with the right to own land. With even the surgeon general who is NOT NATIVE who sits in opposition of this bill & in favor of others owning land who are not from Hawai'i with the same intention of oppression to natives, this can no longer continue.

SHE & EVERY OTHER NON NATIVE OR NON HAWAII BORN CITIZEN SHOULD NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII. The law should be born here, raised here or lived here for at least 20 years to able to be ANY type of lawmaker or representative. We the people of Hawaii should have the final say NOT THE NON NATIVE PERSONS.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:32:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chante	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to protect what little we have left, I support this bill

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:32:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam schaus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support sb 2617

hawaii land for Americans only

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:33:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayton Dano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a young native Hawaiian living in Hawaii I am grateful for the opportunity to raise my kids here on the islands. But recently many family and friends have been forced to move to the mainland because of the high cost of living and inability to afford to buy a home here.

I am in support of this bill because it gives Hawaiians a fair chance to live on the land of their ancestors and let them raise their young keiki in the lands that they belong to.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:35:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaine De Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. This bill is long overdue.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:36:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shani Hough	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support SB2617...Keep Lands in OUR Hands!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:36:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irae Awong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Attorney General,

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony.

As a Native Hawaiian born and raised in Waimanalo, I plead that you pass this bill for the sake of the people of Hawai'i, the future of Hawai'i and my Ohana. I hope you can resonate with me and change perspective for just a few minutes as you read my short story. I am a 32 year old wife and mother raising my 3 sons in a multi family generational home. My mother is 65 years old still working and with inflation she does not plan to retire any time soon. As some may think it is more environmentally friendly and financially smarter, living in multi generational homes actually comes with more hardships than you may think. For example, more family members mean more bills, more financial stress, which may lead to more health problems and mental health problems (statistics show), and sadly more criminal activities arise as I can see families similar to us just struggling to get by and that alone can lead to poor decisions and harm to our communities. The list can truly go on!

The more foreigners are allowed to purchase here, the more costly it will be for us to purchase our own home, (competing with those prices). All we want is a piece of our Hawai'i where we can raise our family and raise up the next generation of Hawai'i in a proper home and raise them up to be good humans who can be a valuable member to our society, our Hawai'i and our communities. We are already trying to stay afloat due to inflation. Please consider this bill for families like mine.

"Keep Hawaiians in Hawai'i"

Mahalo Nui for your time.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:37:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keala Stant	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Keala Stant. I lived most of my life outside of Hawaii, when my parents were forced to move off island to seek employment and housing and a better situation for their keiki. My parents were both college educated individuals that were forced to leave because it was just too expensive to live here in Hawaii. This problem was not created overnight; land, resources, and opportunities all slowly trickle away from our local people. SB2016 will begin to stop the bleeding of resources being funneled and squandered away to foreign interests. I wholeheartedly want to express my support for SB2016.

I am a product of the out of state privilege that you see scoping up land from our locals. I went to better schools, with better funding and worked for years at much better rates to save and move back home to Hawaii. I come from a very large family and the only goal I have is to pave the way and create an environment where coming back home is possible. To do that we must address the Goliath task of correcting the the trajectory that we are on and prohibit ownership of Hawaii real property from foreign principles. This is not an unheard of concept because we see these types of legislation being formed and passed in other states. Why? Because we see the issues the problems the concerns and the resulting degradation and ultimate decline of our indigenous and local peoples as a consequence.

Listen carefully to the oppositions reasons. It is not because passing this bill would be dangerous or not the will of the people, but because of the money. Our attorney general states that the cost of litigation would be too much or the real estate industry has concerns that the flowing faucet of foreign money these investors and foreign principals can bring in, would suddenly stop. They say that these investors bring jobs. I contend that they limit our potential by **CONTROLLING** the opportunities.

There are so many local and citizen developers and investors that there is no reason to believe there would be any negative impact.

The **ONE** and **ONLY** factor that should be considered is the positive impact this change could have on our people and our families. That hope of real estate and home ownership for locals and Kamala becomes more than a dream. It carves a path and it's the beginning steps to putting our

people before money. It's long past due and it's time to make things right.

Please support SB2617 and support the people of Hawaii!

Mahalo for your time and careful consideration.

Keala Stant

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:37:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Hacoba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a native Hawaiian who resides in the state of Hawai'i, on the island of O'ahu and who maybe among the few who are still able to raise their families in Hawai'i understand the daily struggle of fighting to stay here is Hawai'i due to high cost of living and the need to fight outside entities while they continue to drive up the cost of land and property. I am in support of this bill. Give us a chance.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:38:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Atkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of SB2617. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:48:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad Bianchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:39:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to be able to live where I'm from not be bought out by randoms

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:41:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quayd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a Native Hawaiian raised in Laie, Oahu currently living in Kihei, Maui. Me and my partner moved back home (to Hawaii) after living in Utah the last 3 years. The reason for our move to Utah are similar to those of thousands who left our Home to find something cheaper and more affordable. We loved Utah, but it wasn't home. We had planned on staying in Utah for at least 5 years but after the fires in Lahaina happened we felt a strong pull to come home. I work for delta airlines and lived comfortably in Utah now being back I have picked up a second job cleaning homes in Wailea for very wealthy people. I hate that cleaning job not because of the work load but because I am constantly reminded of how FOREIGNERS, people who are not native or even local, purchase these big homes that are super expensive adding to the already ridiculous home prices only to be here a couple times a year. Our people are being kicked out of our homes because of the selfishness and greed of people coming in to get their hands on a little piece of "paradise" for them. Please stop allowing this to happen and help our Hawaiians keep our land and continue to flourish and grow on our Aina.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:41:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I believe you have to be a Hawaii resident in order to buy any home in Hawaii. I also think that you have to at least live here for 2 to 3 years before being able to buy a home.

Thank you

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:41:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandria Wright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was born and raised here in the State of Hawaii and it has been home to my family for 3 generations going on 4, with the birth of my first child in March. We suffered a tragic loss of our home in 2017, and due to unfortunate and unforeseen events over the last several years we are only now getting to move forward in the building process. With foreigners buying up property, creating a high demand market, it is causing prices to sky rocket making it nearly impossible for my family and I to rebuild our home. The building side is a whole different issue but the fact that foreigners are able to buy property and treat it as a commodity is creating problems for local families such as myself. Many friends and people I grew up with no longer reside in our state because of this issue. Hawaii should cater to its local population over foreigners.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:43:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kelly anne olayan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill that prohibits sales of property to foreign consumers. KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS, IN HAWAIIAN HANDS!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:43:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Benjamin and I have lived on this island my whole life. I am 27 years old, I work as a fire fighter and have two other part time jobs. I still live at home with my parents because I am trying to save up enough to buy a small apartment. In the current state of the market my dreams of buying a home are nothing but dreams. I will be lucky if I can even one day afford a small apartment, but even that is a long way away. If something does not change soon I will be forced to seek employment in another state. My entire family lives on Oahu, and I will do everything in my power to stay. Unfortunately, if the state refuses to put in the same effort to keep locals here, I may be forced to move for good.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:45:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill is crucial if we want to keep our kama'aina and the culture of Hawai'i. This is a step to make this place more affordable for its people. Please pass SB2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:45:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicola Jackson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:45:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe Hawaiian lands should be in Hawaiian hands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:45:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Hemmings	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:45:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Panara Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In order to buy home in Hawaii a family needs to make well over 350k per year. Stop allowing people who do not live her the opportunity to purchase property just to rent it out.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:45:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleo Humber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Justice for kanaka ma'oli!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:46:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Preston Cabagua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support bill SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:46:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of bill SB2617. It is time that we put a stop to outsiders coming in to our State and buying up all the real estate, rising the prices of homes and property tax, that are pushing local people out of our home. It is hard enough to survive here in Hawai'i and it is more difficult to realize as a young adult born and raised here, owning something of my own is far fetched. This is the resolution that needs to be done not only for us locals now, but the future generation ahead of us. So let's all work together and keep Hawaiian lands in Hwaiian hands!

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:46:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kelsey i	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To our State of Hawaii,

As a local resident born and raised here on Oahu, I support this bill. Having to watch my friends and family move away to another state is not the Hawai'i I've grown up in. For two very important reasons of being over priced and out bid. I myself make over \$100,000 a year yet I barely can afford to live and support my family without consequences. Consequence of making too much money to qualify for self help housing or any type of housing program. The consequence of not making enough to qualify for a home loan on my own. Having to settle for something as small as a studio for a family of four if I ever want to purchase a home. Consequence of being outbid multiple times of homes because the bids offered were twice as high as my bid. Consequence of renting and hope of not getting placed out because owners decide to sell. Consequence of seeing out of state license plates and families that don't show aloha yet expect all of it from local people. Aloha has depleted and has become a quicksand slowly driving our island into exactly what we portray, a vacation destination. Tourists get to come and enjoy our luxuries, and yet the local people suffer the consequence. Our homeless population is growing at a rapid pace. Our small businesses are being tossed on the side. Our local community may not have the highest bid, though what our state seems to forget that our local community has the pride and aloha to sustain it. As a whole we have great communities, great minds living here and we can't create anymore if the opportunities are better somewhere else. The children will not know pride from which they came from because all they see is their friends and families leaving. Stop with the consequences and give the state of Hawai'i and its people a chance to not just survive but to live. Give us a chance to thrive and not struggle. Us as people as locals of Hawai'i, I believe we don't need much we just need a chance.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:47:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aloha Parker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Alohapumehana and I SUPPORT this bill. So many of my family has moved away because of the high cost of living, mainly because of the reason that some out of state or out of country person or corporation has bought the property, now they will renovate and raise the rent to cover the costs. I don't even know my neighbors. So many homes bought and unoccupied more than half the year and our people are on the streets. Please stop this madness and stop out of state and foreigners from purchasing OUR LAND. Mahalo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:47:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hope Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is long overdue. Stop foreign land purchases and development that does nothing to help the people of Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:47:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kendyl Walker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Priced out of paradise" as many native Hawaiian's experience. As truthful as that phrase is, the question is who owns this paradise?

As descendents of the original kanaka who inherited the land, and spent their life times building "paradise" for the next generations to come, you would think that Native Hawaiians would still live on their islands, continuing the work that their ancestors did. Along the way, Native Hawaiians were robbed of their chance to protect the lands and sea because oppressors and colonisers alike decided they deserved it more than those who rightfully belong on the land. The white supremists systems that were forced on to Native Hawaiian's have played significant part in taking what was not theirs.

"Priced" is a word that also comes from white supremists systems. By pricing something means it can be bought, and by buying it makes you the "owner." You cannot "own" what was never yours to buy and what was never theirs to sell.

Indigeneity is also a science, and indigeneity says that land cannot be bought. You cannot buy or sell something that has its own systems, its own breath, its own living organisms.

If you cannot return the land to its original inheritors then atleast bring them home. Better the systems that drove native Hawaiians out of their lands. Allow them the opportunities to become the protectors and guardians like their ancestors before them. Understand that native Hawaiians are spiritually connected to their lands because they understand the lands essence, they move with her breath, they are healed by the waters.

Stop allowing those who have no right to the land, become "owners."

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:47:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Nakamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, as a Kanaka maoli born and raised in Hawai'i, I support this bill that would stop foreigners from purchasing property across the islands. I am for Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands, 2/3 of all native Hawaiians no longer reside in the islands. Hawai'i government needs to be supporting their return to their native lands as stewards and indigenous people, as well as supporting the local people who have spent generations in Hawaii. Hawai'i is not Hawai'i without Hawaiians.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:48:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanyalee Menino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I was born and raised in Hawaii. I now have 5 children who were born and being raised in Hawaii. I am writing this in support for my children and the generations of Hawaii born children to come. Allow them to stay and afford living at home. Stop allowing inflation and pushing out hardworking families from the Islands. They should not be priced out of paradise. They should not be made to choose between living pay check to pay check or leave. Please allow them grace to grow, start a life and a family without having to feel that they are in competition for their ancestral lands. Allow them to live and work here. Make it affordable. Do the right thing for our kids.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:48:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
camil Kapoi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Camil Kapoi. I am supporting this bill as everybody who lives in Hawaii who has the Hawaiian blood will also be supporting because we have been pushed away to the side for far too long. We always get the last of the bit. I don't understand why this one person is in the way of this bill. This just shows how much of money money means to him. Instead, we have people struggling here our own people, his own people struggling in Hawaii, and yet he is not in the support of this bill and it's just very sad that these leaders of Hawaii are still incompetent. They do not care about us, so this is my testimony. I support this bill as many others will and if this bill doesn't pass, then that just goes to show how rigged the politicians in Hawaii are why is money so important more than the people who are struggling here just to eat food just to have a place to sleep comfortably overnight we need to start standing up for the people who are born and raised here we belong here not everybody else who stole this line. We are still illegally living on by the way Support locals start putting us first we matter more than any other person that comes out of state because this is our state we deserve to be taken care of and put first because we have been put last for far too long and it's just in a acceptable and I just pray that God blesses this island and blesses this country blesses this state, because God knows that we need it we have been so selfish we have been so greedy we have been so irresponsible. We have just been so anchored by all of this, and , it's enough already. It's time to pass this bill because we we people need a win. We need this win and this is what we need now there's so many people struggling we cannot make rent. We are behind on our bills. Groceries are just rising EBT don't give out anything to people who are in stuck in middle class and there's a lot of us stuck in the middle where we can't get assistance because we make too much but then we don't make enough and it's just too much we need our own this is where we were born. This is where we were raised we deserve it first. Mahalo and have a great blessed day

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:50:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
richard gideon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:50:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kauionalani Hai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are now more Native Hawaiians living in the continental United States than in the islands, according to the latest numbers from the 2020 U.S. Census.

According to the National Agricultural Law Center, states that have a law prohibiting or restricting foreign ownership and investments in private farmland include: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Hawai'i needs to join the aforementioned states in prohibiting foreign investors or individuals from purchasing what little bits of 'aina we have left.

We need to stop foreign purchases and give kama'aina a chance.



150 Hamakua Drive #341
Kailua, HI 96734



(808) 224-0644
our-hawaii.org

Testimony in Support of SB2617

Submitted to Joint Session of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection /
Transportation, Culture, and the Arts

by Evan Weber, Managing Director, Our Hawai'i, 2/6/2024

Committee members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to speak before you today. On behalf of Our Hawai'i's over 36,000 members and supporters across the pae 'āina, I stand in strong support for Senate Bill 2381, relating to public financing of candidates to elected office. Our members and supporters are local people — kama'āina and kānaka maoli, keiki and kūpuna, from Kaua'i to Kohala, Kailua to Kapolei and every place in between. They have joined our movement to fight for a Hawai'i that puts local people — not big money interests — first, because they are deeply worried about the direction of our islands and believe now is the time for change.

We've entered our seventh straight year of population decline. Thousands of local working families leave the state every year. More than half of all Native Hawaiians now live outside Hawai'i.

There is a limited supply of land, and an unlimited demand from continental and foreign interests to buy up their "slice of paradise," economically displacing families who have lived here for generations, many of for whom these are ancestral lands, through driving up the cost of property values, taxes, and rents.

It's a crisis, and this bill would begin to right the wrong. Let's stop beating around the bushes. This will not solve our housing crisis over night, but if we all agree it's a crisis, we should be doing all we can, and this is a clear, logical, and popular thing we can do.

Mahalo Senator Awa for writing the legislation, Chair Keohokalole and Chair Lee for allowing the hearing, and to all of you for your hopeful support.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:51:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Coito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

my name is Rick Coito. I am a born and raised citizen of Hawai'i. My paternal and maternal family have resided throughout the Hawaiian Islands since the beginning of time. Within the past 10 years most of my family have been forced to leave our island home due to the rising cost of real estate and the renter's market. The rising cost of goods and services have also had a big impact on their decision. Every year another relative and their immediate family leave. I do not want mine and I to be the next. It is our birthright and responsibility as well our constitutional right to live, work, thrive, care and protect these precious lands as ancestors have for centuries. Therefore I support this bill. I know there is a long road ahead of us all, but my family and I are willing to put in all the work it takes. The first step being in the right direction.

I appreciate whomever took the time to read this. I hope you are all in support of this bill and take a step in the right direction.

Mahalo, Rick

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:51:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelley Porter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, thank you for your time. This bill should absolutely be passed. I am 5 generations born and raised here on Oahu and my children (who are both Hawaiian) make 6 generations. We cannot afford to buy our own home and have to live with other family members just to stay in the town we were raised in. Give the local middle a fighting chance at not being kicked out of our homes by passing this bill. Mahalo for your time

Kelley Lehua Porter

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:52:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noe Watson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Since I was a young girl, foreigners have restricted me from my rights as a Hawaiian. What does it mean to be Hawaiian if I am not allowed to nurture or flourish on these lands my ancestors have left behind? To take away the homes and languages of the Hawaiians, is to erase them as a race. Passing this law will help to bring hope to our future Hawaiians.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:52:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacy Nahooikaika	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaii Land in Hawaiian Hands!
Mahalo!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:52:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support **SB2617**.

As a native hawaiian, born and raised in the North Kona district of the big island, I have seen the astronomical rise in real estate prices of our precious and limited land. The barrier of entry is so high that most locals have no chance to compete with money made outside of our state and country. While this is just a small step needed to truly solve the problem, it is a very important first step.

We need to keep Hawaiians in Hawaii, or the true essence of Hawaii will be lost. I moved away and was more than happy to live out of state, however when I decided to have children I returned with my wife to raise our keiki the way we were both raised here in Kona. However no matter how many hours I work (average of 60+ as a public servant for the County of Hawaii) that dream is unreachable for normal people like me. Foreign investors look to our land as another page in their portfolio, whereas I look at it as a place to put down fresh roots from my long lasting family tree.

Give us a chance to live on the land of our people, to make and spend our money here, to give our time and service to Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:53:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime casco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to keep foreign entities from purchasing land in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:53:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karrah Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. I whole heartedly feel we need to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. Land back to all natives! Eō!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:53:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Pi'ikea Dudoit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I'm in support of BILL SB2617. As a native Hawaiian woman born and raised on Oahu I've witnessed decades of my family and friends be displaced by foreigners and inflation. My mother was single woman who worked in district court and put herself through a master's program to support us. While she qualified for Hawaiian homes I'm unable to and only due to my profession as a Registered Nurse was I able to purchase a condo to raise my daughters. On both Oahu and Molokai I've witnessed homes be built and quickly become vacant with no occupancy due to foreign purchases. The waste of our natural resources and limited land is evident. Foreign purchases has contributed to displacement of Native Hawaiians and other ethnic groups whom have contributed to our economy and our workforce. My concern is the future of my daughters and generations to follow. Give natives and contributors a way to live and provide a home for our next generations. Foreignors may be a benefit to tourism but not our daily livelihood. No foreign ownership.

Mahalo for your time,

C. Pi'ikea Dudoit

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:54:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsie Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:54:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiana Dunham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Kaiana Dunham support this bill. I hope this will help the members of our communities, giving them an opportunity to purchase land here in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:54:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is not right to sell to foreign buyers because it makes it harder for local families to buy properties. Local and native Hawaiians should be the only people to own properties. Foreign investors are driving up the prices and making it impossible for local people.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:54:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Genesis Marks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Name is Genesis Kahekilimoana Marks. I am a lifelong resident of Hawaii Island, born here at Kona Community Hospital. I am of Native Hawaiian descent, I am educated, and I am employed by the Hawaii County Fire Department. I have a wife and 3 children.

As a father and husband trying to support his family in Hawaii, I and all of my family members are living paycheck to paycheck. Even with the highly sought after job that I have, working over 70 hours a week, as well as my wife working as much as she can, we still do not make enough money to sustainably own a family home in Hawaii. I have been blessed enough to by a 2 bedroom condominium for my 5 person family. I am so extremely grateful for this, knowing that I atleast can provide a roof for my family. While it is not ideal, I am doing better off then most of my family and friends who live here.

In my short lifetime I have watched home prices in Hawaii go from crazy, to absolutly unrealistic for any native or local person trying to make an honest living. I understand the the gradual progression of the housing market in Hawaii and what makes it attractive to outsiders. Over the past years I have seen too many people born to this land, displaced and struggling to make a living, while there are people moving here constantly with absolutly no care for the wellbeing of the local housing crisis.

My sibilings and I have been looking at houses for the past years, in hopes of scratching up an unlivable home just to raise our children in, while barely making ends meet to pay for inflated rent or mortgage rates. All of this to watch the home be bought sight unseen with no negotiations, by an investor or mainland person who intends on flipping the house or living in it for a portion of the year. It is sad, it is upsetting, and it is a vision of what the future holds for the Hawaiian people.

I am blessed to still be able to live in my home land, but that is not the case for thousands of others.

LATE

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2617, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

PROHIBITS FOREIGN PRINCIPALS FROM ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE OR ANY INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE, EXCEPT A DE MINIMUS INDIRECT INTEREST.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2024
TIME: 3:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

IN STRONG SUPPORT

Welina mai e Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees,

My name is Keala Campbell; I am a Native Hawaiian resident of Hawai'i Island.

I am testifying **in strong support** of bill SB2617 which prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest.

According to the 2020 census, 55% of the more than 680,000 Native Hawaiians in the U.S. are living away from our ancestral homelands, the place that so uniquely defines the beauty of our people, our culture, and our space on this honua (planet) (hpr.org).

Challenged by over-tourism, grotesque real estate prices, the highest cost of living in the nation, and militarization, more Native Hawaiians are being displaced and seeking economic refuge in the form of affordable housing and income opportunities outside Hawai'i.

Keep in mind that Native Hawaiians are the second lowest income earning population in Hawai'i (hawaiiibusiness.com). Despite this, Native Hawaiians are forced to compete with foreign investors, second-home owners, and recent settlers, for the few to no housing options available. Think of the level at which this competition exists - from the ultra-rich who are buying up huge swaths of land, to the mega-rich who are driving up housing prices across the islands, to the fantasy-land "influencer" who takes up space for a bit to up their social value. All while displacing Native Hawaiians from their ancestral homelands.

Other states enacted a foreign ownership law in the 2023 legislative session including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia.

So the argument that such laws are 'unconstitutional' should be dismissed based on the fact that several other states have enacted similar laws.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Keala Campbell

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:55:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nahaku Spencer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill 2617 SB in Relation to Real Estate property.

Mahalo,

Nahaku P.D. Spencer

808-366-5096

nahaku.spencer@yahoo.com

2617 SB RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:55:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
brandi corpuz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB2617 because we need to stop foreign entities from buying all of our land and homes without even setting a foot in Hawaii. We are priced out of Hawaii because people from around the world have more money and assets to buy our properties with cash.

If we required that people had to be from here in order to purchase, then we would have a chance in the real estate market. We need this bill to help our local community to be able to even compete in the purchase of real estate properties on all islands.

This bill would also curb the extreme amount of short term rentals on the market right now. Allowing our local community to purchase homes and find rentals rather than outsiders buying everything so that they can make a profit.

Sincerely, Brandi Corpuz

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:56:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Lono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong *SUPPORT* of bill *SB2617*. Hawaii is slowly being dissected by foreign buyers and this needs to stop. Mahalo for your time.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:56:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ava Taesali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Foreigners should not be allowed to be real estate in Hawaii!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:56:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edwina Joao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is long overdue. Our housing crisis is inhumane and it's about time the residents of hawaii have some support on basic needs like to be able have a shot at buying a home! Who can compete with rich foreigners? Not us!

Hawaiians are being priced out of Hawaii. And don't forget, the reason why tourism is so strong here is because tourist want to come and experience the essence of Aloha. No Hawaiians No Aloha!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:56:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Cosier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Comments

I fully support SB2167. For our keike's future.

Mahalo,

George

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:56:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rysen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family is native Hawaiian and have been living in Hawaii for generations. It's hard to see so many of us being displaced because "richer" white people buy property here and drive up the prices of land and housing. It's also frustrating how the wages don't add up to the rising cost of living such as studios averaging around \$2,000 which shouldn't even be a thing. the word "affordable" continues to be thrown around but does not follow its meaning due to the increase in foreigners buying properties and homes and continuing to contribute to the rising cost of living.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:57:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaysha Wong	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Bill SB2617

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill SB2617, which seeks to restrict foreigners from purchasing land in Hawai'i. As a resident of Hawai'i, I am deeply concerned about the impact of foreign ownership on our local communities, cultural heritage, and natural environment.

Hawai'i is more than just a destination; it is our home, rich in history, tradition, and natural beauty. However, the unrestricted acquisition of land by foreign entities poses a significant threat to the social fabric and identity of our islands. We have witnessed the displacement of local residents, the exploitation of our resources, and the erosion of our unique way of life due to unchecked foreign investment.

By enacting measures to limit foreign ownership, Bill SB2617 will help safeguard our land, resources, and communities for future generations of Hawaiians. It will empower local residents to retain control over their ancestral lands, promote sustainable development, and ensure equitable access to housing and natural resources.

Furthermore, restricting foreign ownership aligns with the principles of self-determination and sovereignty for the indigenous people of Hawai'i. It honors their rights to govern their lands and protect their cultural heritage from external exploitation and commodification.

In conclusion, I urge you to support Bill SB2617 as a critical step towards preserving the integrity and autonomy of Hawai'i. Let us prioritize the well-being of our communities and the sustainability of our environment over the interests of foreign investors. Together, we can uphold the spirit of aloha and safeguard the future of our beloved islands.

Mahalo for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jaysha Wong
Resident of oahu

808-453-0766

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:57:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimberly jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the "Long Overdue" bill SB2617

to stop foreigners from purchasing property in Hawaii.
It is time that our government help us local people- Kanaka, be the only ones able to acquire land in Hawaii -that is ours to begin with!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:57:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy Uluave	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This Bill is Long Overdue. I was born and raised on the North Shore of O'ahu. I grew up thinking that for Hawaii's economic growth we needed to depend on outsider's business. I thought we needed the tourism industry and that we needed to please these foreigners so that we can make a profit. Now that I am older, I realize our government has this power to make our cost of living more affordable but thus far in my lifetime has lacked to exercise that ability to put the Hawaii citizens first. We the people of Hawaii not only deserve to have first access to affordable housing and to own property on the island because it is the people who make HAWAII, HAWAII! Our government will benefit immensely by supporting the people's cause then to support foreigners buying property because it is the people of Hawaii who will support you and create the change our beautiful state needs now and in the future. Foreigners are not invested nor rooted in the growth and success of our State. Foreigners buying up property in Hawaii will change the aesthetic, the culture, and the growth that the people have been working for generations so hard to build. Please, I urge you to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:57:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm in support of bill Sb2617. There should be a restriction where foreigners are not allowed to purchase land. My family has suffered as a result of selling the land to foreigners. Some of us had to move away as a direct result of it. May Gods will be done.

Robert Crisostomo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:57:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremy Lyles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617 For the people of Hawaii 🙌

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:57:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joeylene Dang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm testifying in support of this bill. It has been too many years that the lands of Hawaii have been sold for profit to foreigners. Taking away valuable precious land from the Hawaiian people. Pushing out native Hawaiians from their homeland. It's about time someone is doing something about it. My family and I are doing our best to provide homes for our kids and the future generations, so they can continue to call maui their home. Please hear the cry of the native Hawaiians. We need a voice now before it's too late.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:57:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dustin Kuehu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiian NEED Homes!! We the Stewart's of this land should have first priority to all homes!! Hawaii is NOT Hawaii without Hawaiians!! We need to keep our people home an stop having foreigners BUYING us out which raises prices for us k̄naka to afford anything. It's time to put us FIRST!! People over profit!! Ke aloha nui iā k̄kōu pakahi apau 🤝

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:59:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Curt Oishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617. It is time and other states have done it. One positive step in keeping locals from moving away from their home.

Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:59:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyman-George Nauahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Lyman Nauahi, a Native Hawaiian

I am supporting and testifying in favor of the "LONG OVERDUE" bill. With the cost of living here in Hawai'i and also the poor leadership of our government our home is going downhill. We the Native Hawaiian people are the minority in our own home! Without the Hawaiian people, there is no Hawai'i. STOP foreigners from colonizing our home!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:59:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Policano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Hawaii I fully support the bill to restrict or deny foreign purchases of Hawaiian property and agricultural lands. The amount of available housing and raw land for residents of the state is extremely limited and letting foreign corporations buy out properties before residents who live and work in these communities is absurd. Other states have passed similar statutes with great success and they don't even have the housing issues that Hawaii does. Local Hawaiians are being priced out every day and soon Hawaii won't be the same without its local population. My husband who was born and raised here has not been able to buy a house for our family and things just keep looking worse since Covid brought an influx of new wealthy work from home residents. This is our only chance to end the corrupt money laundering by foreign entities buying up properties and destroying the fabric of Hawaiian culture by driving up housing costs. When are the residents of Hawaii going to be the priority for this state government? After Lahaina it's time to put the people who live and work in this entire community first.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:00:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shari Geronimo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please!! Please! This bills is truly LONG OVERDUE! My self along with many of my ohana was born and raised here in Hawaii and has worked tirelessly double, triple jobs and still cannot afford to buy a house here in Hawaii! This bill needs to be past!! PLEASE!! 🙏

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:01:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicola Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is long over due. Too many times is money put before the Hawaiian people. That has to stop. One way this can stop is when we put an end of foreign buyers so our Hawaiian people can have a chance.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:01:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shandell Kovaloff-Coryell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill because i see way to many out of state and country people buying property here in Hawaii and it needs to stop for kanaka and people born and raised here to buy property!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:01:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli DeCosta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As I have testified before any public servant who is truly for the Hawaiian people, or people of the Hawaiian islands will show it through the work that they do for us! If you are truly for us you would never want our land to be bought up by foreigners who only have their own interest in mind!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:02:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Imani cook	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of Bill SB2617

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill SB2617, which seeks to restrict foreigners from purchasing land in Hawai'i. As a resident of Hawai'i, I am deeply concerned about the impact of foreign ownership on our local communities, cultural heritage, and natural environment.

Hawai'i is more than just a destination; it is our home, rich in history, tradition, and natural beauty. However, the unrestricted acquisition of land by foreign entities poses a significant threat to the social fabric and identity of our islands. We have witnessed the displacement of local residents, the exploitation of our resources, and the erosion of our unique way of life due to unchecked foreign investment.

By enacting measures to limit foreign ownership, Bill SB2617 will help safeguard our land, resources, and communities for future generations of Hawaiians. It will empower local residents to retain control over their ancestral lands, promote sustainable development, and ensure equitable access to housing and natural resources.

Furthermore, restricting foreign ownership aligns with the principles of self-determination and sovereignty for the indigenous people of Hawai'i. It honors their rights to govern their lands and protect their cultural heritage from external exploitation and commodification.

In conclusion, I urge you to support Bill SB2617 as a critical step towards preserving the integrity and autonomy of Hawai'i. Let us prioritize the well-being of our communities and the sustainability of our environment over the interests of foreign investors. Together, we can uphold the spirit of aloha and safeguard the future of our beloved islands.

Mahalo for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Imani Jiselle Kaheamoana Cook

Resident of O'ahu, Hawai'i

Phone: (808)693-6556

E-Mail: Cook.Imani@yahoo.com

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:03:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Remy Hirai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Welina,

My name is Remy Hirai and I'm a Native Hawaiian residing in Hau'ula, O'ahu and I strongly support bill SB2617. I strongly support stopping foreigners from purchasing land and property in Hawaii. Enough is enough, and this "Long Overdue" bill is exactly that, long overdue!

Mahalo,

Remy Hirai

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:03:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marisa Miyashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

The only way my husband and I were able to purchase a house on the island of Kauai that we call home was to ask his parents for early inheritance and pay 1/3 of the price of asking price on our house. It is impossible as an educator in a public school to be able to afford a home even though we have two incomes. Our two children may not even have a shot at staying in Hawaii as adults if that is what they wish because we will not be able to compete with foreign money. Please oppose this bill so my children have a fighting chance to stay in Hawaii if this is where their dreams are leading them.

Mahalo for your time,

Marisa Miyashiro

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:03:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleo keala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this because we Hawaiian we kanakas are getting priced out of paradise losing there home because foreign are buying land that belong to residents here on the islands

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:04:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dukie sparks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Duke a native Hawaiian who was born and raised on Maui this is huge for us and the future generations to come! this gives us and our children a fighting chance to have generations continue to live in Hawaii. Foreign investors continue to drive the market up, so no average or middle-class can even compete and afford the real estate market here in Hawaii! Just to bring awareness Middle class people make around 120k-150k a year! with that being said, how can our middle class people making 6 figures a year not afford to live here? I support this bill! because Hawaii without Hawaiians will no longer be Hawaii!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:04:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Leong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill SB2617, this should have been done years ago. Local families that have been here for generations are no longer able to live where their roots are/ raised. This bill will give us local people a chance at owning some sort of property in the future.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:04:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Tran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Property and land should only be available to those who are of resident. Foreigners buy land and push out locals!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:05:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rikki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write to support the long overdue bill in which I believe it is in our best interest; our meaning kanaka /oiwi, to stop the rape of our lands. Our people can barely live here already, and we are being pushed out of our motherland because foreigners have been taking over in such a wave that causes kanaka to drown. It's is very much long overdue that we stop allowing people that are not native to our islands to purchase our lands, in hopes to one day be able to have land for the keiki of our future...the attorney general wants to say that it is unconstitutional to stop foreigners to purchase land, but are these foreigners from our native land to begin with, and how are the upheld to follow the constitution in the first place? A'ole, a'ole, a'ole to foreign purchases! It does not benefit anyone else but the State of Hawaii, meanwhile our people continue to suffer while SOH prospers off our people.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:06:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of SB2617. This is absolutely long overdue to help keep Hawaii affordable for native Hawaiians and for our people. We are a family of 6 and for the first time see that we could possibly buy a house in the future and prevent foreigners from investing here. It's time for our government to help our Hawaiian people live here in Hawaii and not have to relocate!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:06:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Nawai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiian people should be allotted land before anyone else and those who are born and raised Hawaiian descendants should have these rights. Hawaiian homes land shouldn't be just for 50% or more either. This needs to be lowered as well as majority Hawaiians no longer have 50% or more and Hawaiians with 50% or more unable to even afford to buy the homes and/or stuck on the waitlist. That whole process needs to be updated to make sense for today's Hawaiian people. Take care of US before taking care of everyone else in the World.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:06:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrey Alvarez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

My name is Audrey Alvarez and I am a life long resident of Hawai'i. I am writing in strong support of SB2617, The "Long Overdue" Bill that would prevent Foreign Interests from purchasing land and real estate in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i residents, and especially Kanaka Maoli, have been strong-armed out of land and access to land, including business opportunities and especially housing, since the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. This bill represents a chance to begin to make things more fair, by limiting foreign interests in the ownership of Hawaiian land.

With the Lahaina disaster adding to the already incredible need for housing and business opportunity for locals, this bill seems absolutely necessary for the continued growth and safety of our communities. To reject this bill would be to embrace corporate and foreign profits before looking after this community from which you, our representatives are from. You come from the opportunities these communities afforded your parents and grandparents. You owe it to these local communities to put our interests FIRST.

Shame on anyone who would try to stop this bill from passing. Shame on predatory investors from overseas, and shame on the greed that has prevented this from happening sooner. Our communities are suffering. Please make the right decision for our future generations and the well being of Hawai'i Nei.

Mahalo,

Audrey Alvarez

Honolulu, Hawai'i

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:06:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shayna moore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a local resident on the island of Kauai, raised on Oahu. I have lived here for my whole life at 38 years old. I am a working mother of two sons working 2 jobs still living in my parents home, and for us local people that's completely normal to still live at home. But in reality us local people can no longer afford to live here let alone house our families on our own. All these transplants with money are moving here and buying investment properties which is causing rent to be something we cannot afford. As a mother I would love to purchase a home of my own for my kids and give them that stability for them knowing that they'll always have somewhere to live and not have to move away from their island home because us local people of my generation can no longer afford to live here. But with real estate being what it is I don't think it's in the cards for us, which is sad. There is something wrong when you see multi million dollar properties built right next to our low income or affordable housing and these transplants don't care that they are raising property taxes for some. I have family friends that's has been forced to sell their homes because their taxes were outrageous. I hope this testimony finds you all well and thank you all for trying to give hawaii back to its people. 🙏🙏🙏

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:07:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pomai Hoapili	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support this bill because for far too long Hawai'i has been overrun and used by foreign investors to use Hawai'i as a money engine. All the while pushing out native Hawaiians from establishing, creating businesses and communities that flourish in the very soil that they were born. By stopping foreign real property ownership there will be better opportunities for local people to take hold of their own lands and futures.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:07:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In light of what the median income Hawaii resident makes in comparison to property prices in Hawaii, it is imperative for the government to take measures to protect the interests of local Hawaii residents. Restricting foreign principals from buying and owning property in Hawaii is one step to mitigate the adverse effects of soaring real estate costs, ensuring that the people who have deep roots in the community are not priced out of buying a home in Hawaii. Such regulations would safeguard the cultural fabric of Hawaii, preserving the essence of the islands for future generations of locals with generational ties to the state.

Aloha,

Russell Saito

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:07:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystal Yasukawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Krystal Yasukawa, and I am a residence of Oahu, Hawaii. I am 34 years old. My husband is 35 years old. We are local residences here. I am in support of this bill because between my husband and I, we work 2 jobs and own our own farrier business, raise four children, and we still cannot purchase our own home on Oahu without our parents helping us substantially. The current system is not set up to help local residents stay in Hawaii. Something has to change in order for residents to not be displaced. This bill is a great solution. Stopping foreigners from purchasing properties keeps the property prices down and affordable for the local people. My husband and I were looking for a home to buy, and we were outbid three times on three different homes by people from the mainland, two site-unseen. It was so frustrating, and we are discouraged. If this is how the system will be, there will be no such thing as local residents in Hawaii. We will be replaced and displaced. I ask for your full support in this bill.

Thank you,

Krystal Yasukawa

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:07:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katarina fonua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

My name is Katarina Fonua. I am local, born and raised in Hawaii and a Registered voter. I support this bill to the fullest! We need to make a way for our own people to buy homes before we cater to any outsiders! Do not allow non local residents more so foreigners to buy any land from our island home 🙏 enough is enough! Pass this bill if you truly are for the people of Hawaii!! So many of our locals are moving because they have no chance to these foreigners buying everything it's not fair or right! We need to make a way for locals to buy and this is the first step to that!!

Aloha, Katarina Fonua

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:08:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pelenatita Namoa-Hanusa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it will decrease buyers from outside the state. This may not stop other U.S. citizens from buying but this is a great start.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:08:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

On behalf of all Native Hawaiians that are struggling to purchase a piece of land, which rightfully belongs to us, we support this bill! We understand that it does not solve all issues that we face when trying to accommodate land, but it's a start in the right direction. Of course the opposers are commercial companies that profit on the sale of our land, while they fail to see the bigger issues, which is the displacements of native Hawaiians, and the rising cost of living, due to many non-natives and/or foreigners purchasing land for above the price that many locals can afford. The world views Hawaii land purchasing as "owning a piece of paradise," but for the locals, it's the simple fact that this is our home, our roots are here, our history is here. Foreigners should not have the same rights as natives when it comes to owning native lands. It has nothing to do with other races, and has everything to do with NATIVE HAWAIIANS BEING ABLE TO AFFORD LAND IN THEIR OWN HOMELANDS. Foreigners can purchase all the land they want where they're from. Hawaiians are simply asking to leave our land for Hawaiians. Shame on you if you're opposing this bill because your pockets become smaller or you don't care about Hawaiians being displaced. It goes to show how you have no Aloha for the people of Hawaii while being a guest in our home. Mahalo for allowing me to share.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:08:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ranell	Testifying for Palolo Tenant Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Allow the locals, the people born and raised on the Aina, generation after generation to be able to remain here. We care for the land, we care for the people, yet we continue to witness our own people have to leave due to the inflation, cost of living, not being able to afford the home we were raised in.

Our grandfather passed away before he was called for Hawaiian Homelands. Now, no one in our family is eligible to request land under those circumstances due to our quantum that is merely a fraction under the required amount.

There are other ways of obtaining a home in Hawaii, but none that is realistic to the pay grade that majority of local families earn with a minimum wage of \$14.00 per hour. By taking Hawaii off the public sales market, atleast local families will have a higher chance to obtain land and remain in their homes.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:09:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Shayla nahale and I'm a native Hawaiian born and raised on the Big island . I couldn't agree more with SB2617 as I see the Native Hawaiian people around me continuously get pushed out by outsiders buying all the land and homes here it truly breaks my heart. Hawaii is my home and I wouldn't want to raise my kids anywhere else so please pass this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:09:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am born and raised from O'ahu, Hawai'i and hope to own my own home one day. Becoming a first time homeowner has become almost impossible for myself and other members of my family due to the inflated real estate costs in Hawai'i. These inflated market costs are largely influenced by and due to the buying power of large international / foreign companies. I have attended open houses only to watch multiple foreign individuals enter a bidding war representing companies or themselves. Hawai'i is already in a housing shortage, what houses are left should be realistic for Hawaiian or Hawai'i residents to afford. If we don't want Hawai'i to turn into a characature of its former culture, an island of foreign investment properties, a place where the children from there can't afford to stay, we need to act now by ensuring that land is not sold off to foreign investors. We need to give our future and our keiki a chance to afford to remain in Hawai'i. Many states and cities have restricted real estate purchases by foreign investors already (often due to heavy Chinese acquisition). I believe it is in Hawai'i's best interest to put 2B2617 into place now.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:10:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Gellert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for the preservation of Hawaiian land for Hawaiians and United States citizens, and to advocate restriction on foreigners purchasing land and property in Hawaii.

Hawaii's unique cultural, historical, and environmental heritage is integral to its identity, and it is crucial to safeguard these aspects for the benefit of current and future generations. By limiting land ownership to Hawaiians and US citizens, we can help maintain the integrity of the local communities and ensure that development aligns with the values and needs of the people who call Hawaii home. This bill will help keep more Hawaiians home.

Furthermore, restricting foreign land purchases can have positive economic implications for Hawaii. By prioritizing local and national interests in property ownership, we can help ensure that economic benefits generated from land use stay within the state and the United States. This approach promotes a more self-sustaining economy and contributes to the overall well-being of the residents.

In conclusion, I strongly endorse this bill. I urge you to consider the long-term benefits of maintaining these restrictions for the prosperity and well-being of Hawaii and its people.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:10:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emilie Bierly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the powers that be,

Thank you for allowing me to express support of SB2617. This is truly a serious impact for the future generations of Hawaii's kamaainas, and generations of family that live here and want to continue living in Hawaii. The world's wealth is no match for people living in Hawaii to compete against. However, Hawaii is marketed to the highest bidder, with no restriction. Please consider passing this bill to protect locals living here and our children's opportunity to continue living here for years to come. I know money is always a motive, but there can be great benefits to restricting unlimited access to our land and housing resources.

With Sincerity,

Emilie Bierly

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:10:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilima Greig-Hong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617 to prevent further purchase of Hawaii lands by foreign investors.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:11:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayne Kealoha-Dacuycuy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill SB2617!! I believe that the people of Hawaii has suffered way to long. Selling the land to foreigners has not helped the people just the government who aim is to see the Hawaiian people oppressed. Leave Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:11:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in STRONG support of **SB2617**.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:11:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Fonseca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:12:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brock Ai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Know Hawaiians, Know Hawaii... No Hawaiians, No Hawaii. We welcome malihini with open arms but should not allow foreigners to purchase property here as kanaka and natives should be our first priority.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:12:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby Esteban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian land in Hawaiian hands! Non-residents are taking away land from locals who are already struggling to live here. Where do we draw the line? HERE.

We need to do better. We should not let any Tom, Dick, or Harry outside of our state be allowed to scoop up property to fatten their investment portfolio. Our culture, history, and legacy for our keiki is at stake and slowly slipping out of our hands. Passing this bill can at minimal, give us locals a chance to not be priced out of paradise. It's their vacation, but our home. Stringent policies in place is a step in the right direction to keep Hawaii alive.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:13:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Char-Lee Kaleiohi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai Kākou,

I am in full support of Bill SB2617, LEAVE HAWAI‘I FOR HAWAIIANS!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:12:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chadwick Wickes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2617

Chadwick Wickes

4279 Independence loop Apt. E

Kapolei, Hawai'i , 96707

Chadwick.wickes@gmail.com

7609643311

05Feb2024

[Senate Committee Name]

[Senate Committee Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Dear [Committee Members],

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by allowing only Hawai'i residents to purchase, I've seen this in many countries that I've been. In those countries we have no right to purchase homes or land. Renting is ok. I do understand the for profit mindset, but it has gone on for too long. The basic cost and way of living has been altered so much. I know that this bill was said to be unconstitutional, I don't see it that way. We have to take care of the people that live and work here. This bill sets the stage for change for positive impacts for everyone that calls Hawai'i home.

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Chadwick Wickes

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:13:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Kainoa Liu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

The overrunning of non-local residents purchasing real property for decades has caused the pricing for an affordable home to skyrocket, leaving native-born Kanaka to go and find residence elsewhere. Relying on the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) has been a long-awaited joke for many Hawaiians, and this needs to stop.

Aside from the overthrow, it seems that Hawaiians can never catch a break and are constantly being driven out of existence so that everyone else can call my home their home. The constant threat of trying to live the dream of one day owning a home, only to be bought out by outsiders, is an outrage to our human rights to the land. No one of high power has stood up for our people like this, as this bill proposes to do.

In my plead, please allow this bill to pass. I may not be able to attain the dream of owning a home in my lifetime, but at least I can rest assured that there is a fighting chance for our future keiki when this bill passes in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:14:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I approve this message

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:15:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keala Margeson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill limiting foreigners to purchase land and forcing native Hawaiians and locals alike to relocate by raising the property value to a price we cannot afford. Hawaii is not Hawaii without Hawaiians. We deserve to live on our 'aina and our future generations to remain here as well. Please hear our plea.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:15:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chazlyn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it's our rights as people of Hawaii to be able to purchase homes on our lands. If native Americans can have rights and territories strictly giving them rights to their land in our continental USA, we DESERVE the same rights.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:15:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shea Wing Lofaro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I have lived on Maui my whole life, went to kihei elementary, Lokelani, and Maui High. I've watched the island change over the years some for better, some for worse. I have come to the realization that I will honestly never be able to afford a house on Maui due to the amount of people outside of Hawaii who purchase them, and then turn it into a BnB or only live here for 3 months out of the year. Locals should have first choice on any house being sold in the state and only after locals have had a choice then it should be an option for any one from out of state to have the option but with probations and such, they can't buy more than X amount a year, nor should they be able to rent them or to be used as a Bnb.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:15:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quinlan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For to long has people taken land from the native peoples of Hawai'i. Any step closer to prevent outsiders from taking land that otherwise could be divided to native Hawaiians should be taken. It is necessary for us a nation to care for and protect those that were here first before those who choose to come for there own benefits. This bill is a necessary step in the right direction to help aid and support Kanaka Maoli.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:15:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
June keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I am in support of this bill because I think it's time we stop people that's not from Hawaii from buying up all our land and making a profit off of it!! I think it's time we start thinking of our own people and making it more affordable for our own people!!! And offer the land/housing to our own people first and not just to the highest bidder!!! Because our own people are having to move away just to take care of their families because Hawaii is just to expensive to live anymore!!! Please consider all the people of Hawaii so we can continue to live on our own aina and raise our keiki here!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:17:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josh R.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill, mahalo

Josh

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:17:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Maldonado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:17:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keliko Elkington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill to ensure the longevity and health of our 'āina stays within Hawaiians. We have been long overdue for a bill such as this to protect our land and our people. Our land and everything that makes up Hawai'i is being sold off piece by piece, it's becoming unrecognizable. Protect Hawai'i, protect Hawaiians.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:17:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

YES YES YES 'AE please

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:18:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leona Leialoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

i wholeheartedly support this bill as our people experience housing shortage enough currently. We need to keep affordable housing for our own residents.

mahalo

Leona Leialoha

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:18:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominique Randazzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill. It is critical to PROHIBIT foreign entities from acquiring any property or agricultural land in Hawaii. To take it a step further, in my opinion, any entity that does not have native hawaiian ancestral ties to hawaii and has not resided primarily in Hawaii for over 25 years should not be able to buy property or land in Hawaii. Out of state entities buying land to rent as air bnb should be prohibited as well. It's unfortunate to see our islands prostituted out to the highest bidders. The ones who suffer are the indigenous peoples of the land who are being priced out of their homes. No Hawaiians, No Hawaii. Please stop the selling of indigenous lands to foreign entities! Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono o hawaii!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:20:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We need this for our community and for our future generations. Please don't let out side investors price us out of our home. I hope they publish all of those that oppose this bill because it shows who doesn't support our people. Aloha.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:20:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timothy Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly support SB2717, we need this to give our local families and children a chance to remain in Hawaii. Too many of our friends and family have been forced to move to the mainland due to the cost of housing in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Timothy Wong

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:20:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuulei Kupihea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:20:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jossevey orpilla	Testifying for Ultimate Burger	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Homelessness is a huge problem in Hawaii because foreigners are buying all lands/homes for vacation rentals. I have employees living in low income housing because there is no home to rent/buy. If there are home their extremely overpriced and expensive. We rent out our own family but for a cheap price, if everyone had to opportunity to buy a home Hawaii wouldn't have so much homelessness and depressed 18+ y/o trying to live here. Younger generations are suffering!!!! Help them!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:20:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bethany Fuller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. To provide a future for myself and my children. Housing crisis has gone on too long. Out of state buyers have been allowed to condemn local and natives alike for far too long in the housing market. Finally a step in the right direction.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:20:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheyne Sing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The land should be for those who are born and raised in Hawaii. Specifically those who have cultural ties to the land and to the history of Hawaii. In order to help solve the housing crisis and the rise in the cost for land the land should be for Hawaii not foreigners!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:21:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Wise	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:21:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in Support of Bill SB2617.

Mahalo,
Erica

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:21:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nani Kaihewalu Martinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in FULL support of this bill. Foreigners should not be able to purchase land or even any building in Hawai'i. Its not right for the people and the ancestors who take care of Hawaii. I strongly believe this should be a no brainer when it comes to any territory in the USA no one in other countries should be able to purchase any land at all.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:21:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosanne Arraujo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please keep the rights of Kamaaina first!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:21:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian and a part of the new generation. I want actually own a home and the land from which my ancestors lived. Im TIRED of seeing my people get priced out and not being able to hold a home due to competition of foregin and non-resident buyers. This is our home and this land is all we know. For once, actually be for the people. Keep HAWAIIAN LANDS in HAWAIIAN HANDS.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:22:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zayna Guzman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The people of Hawaii need CHANGE!! KEEP FOREIGN BUYERS OUT!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:22:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tihani Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, ‘O Tihani Mitchell ko‘u inoa, no Pu‘uanahulu, Hawai‘i mai au. I am born and raised on the island of Hawai‘i in the ahupua‘a of Ka‘ūpūlehu; my ‘ohana has been in that ahupua‘a since the 1800s prior to the illegal annexation of Hawai‘i by america. This bill, if passed, has the potential to essentially save the Hawai‘i we know, and allow us to preserve and care for her in the way our kūpuna would have wanted. For centuries we have been outcasted in our own homelands-- essentially forced to move away and start anew; losing a sense of identity and connection to our ‘āina. If this bill were to be passed into our legislature, a new beginning with arise for us kānaka to reclaim this identity and our ‘āina; allowing for us to sustain ourselves and the generations to come. This is our chance to do something about the current state of Hawai‘i and change the trajectory of where we are headed.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:22:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gabriel manriquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to continue to raise my family here for generations to come. It will be impossible if this becomes land only valued as vacation purchase.

I'm all for tourism but gotta keep Hawaii, Hawaii for everyone's benefit.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:22:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ka Ua Taylor-Fulton	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha mai e Hawai'i State Legislators, Anne Lopez, to the Kupuna and Akua of Hawai'i. I am a proud Native Hawaiian, from Wai'anae. I support this Bill SB2617. Please think of the children born and raised in these islands, this bill will give them a chance to own and raise their own babies one day here where we were raised; so not have to go to foreign lands so that we don't have to be severed from our 'āina and home. So that our Pikos will not be uprooted and cut. Think of the land and how she will be affected by the consequences of this legislation not being implemented. Lastly, please look into your hearts and souls about how we as Hawaiians and locals struggle to just live in the islands we call home. Mahalo nui, malama pono, e ola!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:24:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Imamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kevin Imamura. I am born and raised in Hilo, HI. My parents and grandparents both are from Kau, Pahala and Naalehu. I was there to witness the end of the Plantation era for the Kau Sugar cane mill in Pahala and I was there to watch the last cane truck bring in the last harvest.

It breaks my heart to have seen this place closed. I am a future farmer and I was looking for land so I could return to Kau. A chinese lady has been buying up the land near Punalulu beach and other places within Kau. Who knows where else is being bought from foreigners? This is not right. If you look how much it costs to purchase land, none of us can afford it.

Please stop the land purchases for these foreigners as well as the super rich from purchasing the land and driving the costs way up. Keep the local land for the locals. Make Hawaii affordable for all of us.

Mahalo,

Kevin

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:24:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Support

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:24:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Nojima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in **full support of SB2617** preventing foreign nationals to invest and purchase property in Hawai'i! As a Hawaiian and Kanaka Maoli it breaks my heart that a lot of my family members and friends are priced out of paradise and ultimately moving away.

I humbly ask for your favor and strong support for SB2617! It's for our keiki and the future!

Eō

mahalo

Cory Nojima

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:24:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vince	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is for all the Hawaiians out there! EO!

About time this is happening! It's been long over due! We need this bill passed asap! For a long time now since are Aina was taken we were silent! No more! Us Hawaiians always have a hard time finding homes/apt especially in these times when everything is so highly priced and all of the foreigners that are moving are just buying right from under are feet's. It's even hard seeing my Hawaiian brothers and sisters even are Kapunas homeless because there's no other options for housing because half of it is taken buy foreigners. Please let this be a thing in Hawaii like it is in New Zealand so us locals can have more options for homes and finally call it are true homes once again without worrying about others moving here and taking more land from us locals.

Mahalo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:24:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sydney Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:37:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morgen Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I truly believe that this bill has the power to create more equity in the local housing market for the people of Hawai'i. I believe that housing should be prioritized for locals or folks living locally in Hawai'i. I truly believe that instituting parameters can safe guard hous buying options for those with the means because it's really hard to be competitive with all-cash offers coming from overseas.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:24:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill to prevent foreign investment in Hawaii real estate. We have a limited supply of housing that is being bought up by non-residents and foreign entities to sit empty as vacation homes or to be leased for high profits - contributing to our out of control cost of living and housing prices.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:25:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Support

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:25:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Canubida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I approve bill sb2617. I feel that this Bill should have been passed a long time ago. Foreigners have been purchasing land here for their own benefits without any thought of Hawaiians in mind causing Hawaiians to have to move to the mainland because of the cost to purchase homes here in Hawaii and to make a living here in Hawaii. I truly believe this is a step forward in the right direction to fix things here in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:26:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hookela kaleikini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I as Kanaka support this bill, let's keep our people home.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:27:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I work a good job and get paid "good" money, I saved every paycheck for 2 years for a down payment on a home only to be rejected by every house we tried for because foreign investors came with cash. Currently me and my family of 6 rent a living room for the last 5 years. How can I go to work everyday at a well paying job amd still be so close to homelessness? Something gotta change.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:28:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jovan acoba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed bill that seeks to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property or interests in real property within the State of Hawaii, except for de minimus indirect interests. As a native local resident of Hawaii, I believe that this measure is vital to protect our state's unique culture, heritage, and resources.

Hawaii is a place of immense natural beauty and cultural significance. Our islands are home to a rich history and a diverse community of people who have lived here for generations. The land holds deep spiritual and cultural importance to the native people of Hawaii, and it is crucial that we preserve it for future generations.

Allowing unrestricted foreign ownership of our land can lead to undesirable consequences, such as skyrocketing property prices, the erosion of local communities, and potential exploitation of our natural resources. This bill strikes a balance by permitting limited indirect interests for foreign principals while ensuring that those who purchase real property in Hawaii are committed to the well-being and preservation of our state.

The requirement for foreign principals to register their ownership and for property buyers to attest that they are not foreign principals is a reasonable and responsible step to maintain transparency and accountability in land transactions. Furthermore, the provision for the forfeiture of unlawfully owned property underscores the seriousness of this issue.

I believe that this measure will help protect the unique character and cultural heritage of Hawaii while safeguarding the interests of its residents. It is a step in the right direction to ensure that our state remains a place where locals can continue to call home and cherish the natural beauty that surrounds us.

I urge you to support this bill, as it aligns with the values and concerns of native locals like myself who want to see Hawaii flourish while preserving its rich heritage.

Mahalo,

Jovan-James Yoro Acoba

Makaha resident.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:28:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Andrews	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to save our land for our Keiki. Our families are already falling apart with so many people moving away because everyday life is such a struggle with our high cost of living here. Please!!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:28:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessica middleton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2617, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

PROHIBITS FOREIGN PRINCIPALS FROM ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE OR ANY INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE, EXCEPT A DE MINIMUS INDIRECT INTEREST.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

DATE:

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

TIME:

3:00 PM

PLACE:

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

IN STRONG SUPPORT

Welina mai e Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees,

My name is Keala Campbell; I am a Native Hawaiian resident of Hawai'i Island.

I am testifying in strong support of bill SB2617 which prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest.

According to the 2020 census, 55% of the more than 680,000 Native Hawaiians in the U.S. are living away from our ancestral homelands, the place that so uniquely defines the beauty of our people, our culture, and our space on this honua (planet) (hpr.org).

Challenged by over-tourism, grotesque real estate prices, the highest cost of living in the nation, and militarization, more Native Hawaiians are being displaced and seeking economic refuge in the form of affordable housing and income opportunities outside Hawai‘i.

Keep in mind that Native Hawaiians are the second lowest income earning population in Hawai‘i (hawaiiibusiness.com). Despite this, Native Hawaiians are forced to compete with foreign investors, second-home owners, and recent settlers, for the few to no housing options available. Think of the level at which this competition exists - from the ultra-rich who are buying up huge swaths of land, to the mega-rich who are driving up housing prices across the islands, to the fantasy-land “influencer” who takes up space for a bit to up their social value. All while displacing Native Hawaiians from their ancestral homelands.

Other states enacted a foreign ownership law in the 2023 legislative session including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia.

So the argument that such laws are ‘unconstitutional‘ should be dismissed based on the fact that several other states have enacted similar laws.

Mahalo for your time

jessica Middleton

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:29:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipo Midro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in favor of the bill. Should Band foreigners from purchasing because they are driving out all the local people and also the real estate market up. Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:31:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colie M.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support bill SB2617. I have previously been in the mortgage industry for almost 8 years, and, from first hand experience, have witnessed a large number of foreign investors buying the already sparse real estate available in our sacred Hawai'i. The number of foreign investors continue to rise, bordering the majority amount of real estate buyers, which has negatively impacted our societal and economic lives making it nearly impossible for kanaka Hawai'i to continue to stay in our own home lands. The importance of this bill is immeasurable, and, for our keiki, I strongly urge you to consider it be passed. "He alii ka aina, he kauwa ke kanaka." Let us continue to steward our precious aina for our keiki, and beyond, for without kanaka Hawai'i, what is Hawai'i?

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:31:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chaze Pacheco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am part native Hawaiian, born and raised in Hawaii, and also a licensed Real Estate Agent and Mortgage Loan officer in Hawaii. I support bill SB2617 for multiple reasons, even if it hurts my business. Hawaii has become harder and harder for local families to survive and thrive here. The cost of living, especially real estate has become and is becoming more difficult for anyone to afford. Outside investors and corporate greed continues to drive families out of our islands. We need to put a stop to this as soon as possible. Hawaii and our people will continue to suffer if this bill is not passed. Homelessness will continue to rise. Please seriously consider passing this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:32:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kaiea vera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaiian person who is being pushed out of his ancestral lands because it is simply too expensive to live there. I have acquired a college degree and still would need two or more jobs if i want to own a home. To grow and help my community is very important to me but i cant do that if i cannot afford to live there. When foreigners or non-indigenous entities acquire land, houses, or any real estate, it creates additional disparity and disadvantages against a Hawaiian persons chance of continuing a life amongst their culture, people, and community. For Hawaiians to be the minority in their own lands is sad, hawaiians make hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:32:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Koa Yamashita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Owning a house/property has become ridiculously expensive over the past few decades due to the purchasing of land by foreign entities. Hawaii has an indigenous population that is slowly being priced out of land that was theirs to begin with. Preventing foreign entities from buying land in Hawaii will not solve the problem completely, but is a great first step. My parents and grandparents owned property but the fear is that my future children will not be able to afford it. Personally I think its ridiculous that this hasn't already become a law with the current housing problem. Its time to shut Hawaii down from being taken over by people that don't understand the culture. Hawaii is home, not a vacation rental

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:33:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lula Campos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm supporting this bill, my children cannot afford to purchase a home in on their own island. It's time to correct this HEWA!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:34:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irene Kishida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:34:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mana Rajaei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My dream of purchasing a home in Hawai'i is not looking obtainable with foreigners buying homes left and right. Passing this bill will help keep locals in Hawai'i where they belong.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:35:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kona Oliveira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Support for 2617 SB - A Plea for Fair Homeownership Opportunities and a Call for Locals to Thrive

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Kona Oliveira, and I am writing in full support of bill 2617 SB relating to real property in Hawaii. At the age of 25, I have diligently pursued the dream of purchasing my own home, particularly since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite having all my affairs in order and being approved for a \$1.25 million home, I have continually faced the disheartening experience of losing out to cash-offering outsiders each time I've attempted to make a bid.

This bill holds the potential to level the playing field, providing the opportunity for individuals like myself, a local boy raised on the north shore of Oahu, to realize the dream of owning a home without being consistently outbid. The recent birth of my daughter, who is now a month and a half old, has only heightened the urgency of my quest to secure a stable home for my growing family.

I implore you to champion the passing of this bill, as it stands to offer locals who have diligently prepared for homeownership a genuine chance to compete, free from the overwhelming competition posed by outsiders. My hope is that this legislation will provide a fair and equitable opportunity for aspiring homeowners like me to establish roots within our community.

Furthermore, I urge you to consider a measure akin to what New Zealand has implemented, by imposing a higher tax on outsiders seeking to own property. Such a provision would not only help to ensure that locals have a fair chance at homeownership but also acknowledge the unique challenges we face living on an island.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kona Oliveira

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:35:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of the Long Overdue Bill. Hawaiians have a right to live and grow in their homeland and it should be treated as such.

Mahalo,

Ashley

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:36:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anuheia Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting this on behalf of myself, my family, my two children, and all other kanaka who are unable to live here in Hawaii.

I am a single parent of two keiki who has a college degree and unable to afford housing. Because of this at 38, I have returned to college to pursue my 2nd degree in nursing in order to afford to live at home and try to provide a better life for me and my children.

I have grown up in the Windward community where a lot of our neighbors have either moved in with other families or moved away altogether because no one can afford rent, mortgage, and utilities.

I grew up in a time where our neighbors next to us has had families living in the houses their grandparents bought. Sadly, that is not the case anymore. Hawaii has been sold to the highest bidder piece by piece with no care or disregard to the true residents of these islands and no care for the land itself.

I support this bill in hopes that my children and future grandchildren will be able to still have a chance to live at home.

Please consider this bill as this will affect many generations to come and our kanaka maoli being displaced across the continent.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:36:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Armance Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I support this bill as the Hawai'i government must do more and do better assisting Native Hawaiians and Local families with affordable housing. This is a step in the right direction as we are an island with no more land available to development more housing so the properties we have need to be prioritized for us.

Mahalo,

Armance Flores

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:36:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Palzis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native hawaiian who has been displaced from my birth place over 20 years ago I adamantly support the bill to ban foreigners from purchasing our native lands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:38:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyrena Asuega	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly and fully support this testimony and urge legislators to pass this bill ASAP. It's time for change and time for those who live on island to be able to afford living in Paradise.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:38:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Marker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill SB2617 we need to stop foreigners from buying up land as we are limit to begin with and it raises rent and property making it hard for those who live here to afford the cost of living. The homelessness in our state is getting out of control and this will help to stop it from getting worse

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:38:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Gilman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this fully.

It's about time we stand strong for this bill.

This has been going on for to long ,we need to stop the purchase of land and not only that but how did we allow the sell /purchase of lanai,or some foreigner to own most of Kauai, selling of our aggressive land.this needs to stop. We need people ,representatives, counsel, and ect.. like you and those who are for the Land and the people of HAWAII. We see the and hear those who are for us. Stand Strong and Proud Stop the sell of our homeland..

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:38:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For too long we've let colonizers and people who don't even live in Hawai'i drive up the cost of living with their foreign money. Hawai'i is what it is because of the people here. We need to let the people here thrive—ESPECIALLY Kanaka Maoli who should have their stolen land back! The least the state can do right now is not allow foreigner's to purchase more of the land.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:38:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica DeCosta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel that mainland people.should not be allowed to.purchase homes on the island of Oahu or any other island. They build monster homes make our states a bidding war and our children of Hawaii can not afford to live in their homeland that they were born and raised. I also.feel that transplant.people are also.not.allowed to.purchase homes here. You can see on TV that alot of the real estate people.are from foreign countries and they.become top.sellers

How is that possible. We as the people of Hawaii should say who.can.purchase here

We need to.stand together like in Samoa.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:39:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Mayerich	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have not read the bill, so I cannot support or oppose. I am only commenting based on my belief that it is meant to stop foreigners from buying property here in Hawaii, and I agree that certain foreigners should not be allowed to buy property in Hawaii. When I say property, I mean land, specifically.

why certain foreigners? Well, if we, as US citizens are allowed to buy land in the countries from which those foreign property buyers come, then I say ok. But if there is no reciprocal agreement, then no way.

Furthermore, I don't feel anyone should be able to own land here unless they live on that land for at least 10 months per year, or let's say 295 days. This would not only apply to land, but also to houses and condominiums. Why? Because living space here is very limited, and you are squeezing people out by driving up real estate prices, which directly drive up rents. This should not be an island is speculation. This is sacred land to many people, and it should not be a place for somebody to make a profitable investment without it meaning much to their hearts and souls.

frankly, I feel the state should reclaim all land by eminent domain and charge a simple rental fee each year. I also feel that you need to stop towers from being built and no more planned developments. Basically, you need to prevent property prices from ever going up. You really should have such a desire to make hawaii your home that yiu will live here without ever making a dime on any real estate. That will also drive the realtors away, which are a big part of our problem.

So, yes, I support limiting foreigners from buying land, and foreigners and citizens from buying invest properties. Furthermore, when you write a bill, you need to get rid of all loopholes, which means that there is no way on earth someone is able to get around the law.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:40:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah Kale Jaeger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support outside companies buying our kanaka land(s).

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:40:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyle Nicely	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:41:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dillon O'Claray	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Foreigners should not be allowed to purchase and/or own the very limited and sacred land that belongs to the indigenous peoples of Hawai'i. Their profit becomes our deficit. We must protect native land for native hands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:42:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a kanaka living on the island of Oahu within the homestead community of Papakolea, I have seen so many families within my neighborhood leave our aina because the social economic crisis we face today is difficult to bare. Homes have become expensive and inaccessible to acquire due to foreigners comeing in with their loaded wallets and buying up our land. It's hard enough as a mother to already take care the bare minimum of raising my children let alone making sure that my children will have the opportunity to build a home for their own ohana one day.

I am here to express my support for this bill for maybe we as kanaka can continue to lay our roots down as a lahui. May we continue to support any and all Bills that help put Hawaiian lands back into Hawaiian hands 🌺

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:43:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaylin M. Tacgere-Bailey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill SB2617, which seeks to restrict foreigners from purchasing land in Hawai'i. As a resident of Hawai'i, I am deeply concerned about the impact of foreign ownership on our local communities, cultural heritage, and natural environment.

Hawai'i is more than just a destination; it is our home, rich in history, tradition, and natural beauty. However, the unrestricted acquisition of land by foreign entities poses a significant threat to the social fabric and identity of our islands. We have witnessed the displacement of local residents, the exploitation of our resources, and the erosion of our unique way of life due to unchecked foreign investment.

By enacting measures to limit foreign ownership, Bill SB2617 will help safeguard our land, resources, and communities for future generations of Hawaiians. It will empower local residents to retain control over their ancestral lands, promote sustainable development, and ensure equitable access to housing and natural resources.

Furthermore, restricting foreign ownership aligns with the principles of self-determination and sovereignty for the indigenous people of Hawai'i. It honors their rights to govern their lands and protect their cultural heritage from external exploitation and commodification.

In conclusion, I urge you to support Bill SB2617 as a critical step towards preserving the integrity and autonomy of Hawai'i. Let us prioritize the well-being of our communities and the

sustainability of our environment over the interests of foreign investors. Together, we can uphold the spirit of aloha and safeguard the future of our beloved islands.

Mahalo for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jaylin M. Tacgere-Bailey

Resident of Waianae

808-853-8360

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:43:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehauanu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen of Hawaii, I am in support of the "Long Overdue" bill (SB2617). Native Hawaiians deserve to be prioritized in their own homeland. This bill will give Native Hawaiians the space and resources to support their growth and success.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:43:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nani Dapitan-Haake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by [briefly mention key points of the bill and its positive impact on the community].

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:44:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Chou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

It is important to preserve the land and real estate for local and native residents to have the opportunity to own. As Hawaii is already facing many housing issues, we must first protect our people and our culture by giving them first opportunity and rights to housing. Housing cost and real estate has already become inflated, and with outside foreign buyers it will continue to rise , forcing locals and natives to relocate.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:45:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thalia Lewi-Ohashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Foreigners should not be able to purchase land here In hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:45:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaena Gilman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiians and local families need to be prioritized to help our future generations thrive in their own homeland. An uncle down the road got evicted after loving their for over 50 years. He got evicted from an outside investor. This is terrible. Our state needs to take care of its people. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL. The next generation wants to stay HOME!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:45:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Mckee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB2617. I am a Hawaiian born on Oahu and have resided my entire life here. In 2019 I was very fortunate to be able to purchase a home in Kapolei. My small 2 bedroom 1 bath was \$562,000. In a brand new community all of my neighbors around me were Hawai'i locals, most of us first time home buyers. Many of us multi generational living. The pandemic came and completely turned the real estate market in the next couple of years. Taking advantage of the quick equity built in my home I purchased my second home in the same community. Just 1 bedroom bigger than the first, but at a price of \$875,000. Again, my spouse and I are extremely fortunate to have good jobs to make these ends meet. We were excited to move in, but saddened to realize that 8 of the homes on our street, only 2 would be occupied by Hawai'i locals. The rest were bought up by foreign investors. These foreign investors come with no aloha spirit, illegal airbnbs, several cars filling the street for their TURO business, etc. But the worst thing is these foreign investors are driving up the demand for housing in our islands. Eating up whatever property they can buy. Leaving little for our hard working Hawaiians who deserve to live in the lands their ancestors grew up in. With an uptick in demand, the price of real estate rises. Inflation is out of control. The people of Hawai'i are suffering, moving out of state, crowding multiple families under one roof, and even becoming homeless. This bill could be the start to some relief. We all know Hawai'i is a very special place. But without the people of Hawai'i what will this land be? Please support the people of this state. Hawai'i should not be up for sale to foreigners.

Mahalo,

B. Mckee

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:46:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nina Blake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Nina Blake 33 years old and I come from Laiewai, Koolauloa. I support bill SB2617. I remember my aunty who grew up in the hawaiian movement tell me stories of how kanaka maoli were crying out to government officials to stop selling land to foreign investors. I can recall seeing kanaka moali stand and cry out to government officials to stop selling native land to foreign inveators. I am now 33 years old and now I am telling my children, my nieces and nephews of how we as kanaka maoli are crying to you, government officials to stop selling land to foreign investors. It has gone full circle of crying and pleading and nothing has been done. I have come to believe that the voices of the people dont matter. And it instills fear in my heart and bones that my children or even my grandchildren will continue this legacy of crying to maybe your posterity, to stop selling land to foreign investors. How many cycles of this until there is no more? How many cycles until there is no Aloha? How many more cycles until the essence of Hawaii is just a memory? Be on the right side of history. Make bold, history making decisions. Keep foreigners off of our lands.

Mahalo,

Nina Blake

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:47:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nicole iglesias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Writing in support of this bill in hopes that myself and my keiki will all be able to own homes in Hawaii. As of now, competition, prices and lack of availability all hinder us from ownership. Please pass this bill to give us a future!!

Aloha,

Nicole Iglesias

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:48:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Huihui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of 2617 SB RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

This is something that is long overdue and needs to be remedied quickly. It is time to stop selling our island to foreigners!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:48:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Waakoamaikalani aluli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Waakoamaikalani Aluli. I am in support of this bill for many reasons. To simply put it, I believe this bill would give a lot more hope to the future of the people of Hawaii. Not only dose this protect our housing market, but in the long run it protects the longevity of our people's possibility to live on this land.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:49:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Schuman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The people with Hawaiian ancestry, or who have families that were born and raised their whole lives for generations, here in Hawaii, deserve every chance to make ends meet in Hawaii. We all deserve to STAY in Hawaii, and raise our children in Hawaii, where our ancestors lived. It's only the RIGHT thing to do. Allowing outsiders with lots of money to continue to buy majority of our land, that chance will be taken away without a doubt. The Hawaiian people are being bought out of paradise, but not only is it affecting people leaving, it's affecting the culture. Greed and hard work is what people are told to do, and it's almost as if the more expensive it gets, the scarier it gets here. People become envious, angry, stressed, overwhelmed, and turn to bad things to make up for their losses. This can be seen in the violence raise; Guns, robbery, attempted murder, etc. It's time to allow the Hawaiian people to have a chance in their own land to come back to ALOHA. No more selling to outsiders !!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:49:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tania victorine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to stop foreigners from pricing out the Hawaiians

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:49:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Lavatai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Aloha, my name is Rachel, I am a High School Science teacher at a Public School here on the Leeward side. I have been a teacher for about six years. I am born and raised on the westside of Oahu. My reason for becoming a teacher was to give back to my community and to be part of the solution to the many complaints that our Public Schools needed more qualified teachers from the community. Well, here we are.

I again, am aiming to be part of the solution in support of SB2617. Hawaii is know for its pristine beaches, the beautiful sunrises and sunsets, golden sand, ono food and so much more. However, the heartbeat of Hawaii is the people. Native Hawaiians and kama'āina who are wanting to buy a home are competing with foreign outsiders who do not live here, who do not contribute to our economy, and even more so, do not contribute in our communities. If you think about the Ahupua'a system, the people established themselves along the river and managed water allocation, food, and other natural resources for their 'ohana and community. You do not go to another Ahupua'a system and take their resources, espicially when there is no pilina (relationship) that was built.

New Zealand has a policy similar to this. If you are a foreigner, you cannot buy a home or land. Enough is enough! No more offshore property buying here in Hawaii!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:50:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dane Dimaya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a local resident of 30 years, I fully support this bill as I can personally see first hand the shortage of housing here along with the high home prices due to foreigners out buying the local people.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:50:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Rapoza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please help all the people of Hawaii to be able to have the opportunity to one day own land.
Protect what is left from foreign entities that wish to take our last precious resource from us all.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:50:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorena Martinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Enough is enough. I write in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Lorena Martinez (resident of West Maui)

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:51:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi K Perez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Bill SB2617

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill SB2617, which seeks to restrict foreigners from purchasing land in Hawai'i. As a resident of Hawai'i, I am deeply concerned about the impact of foreign ownership on our local communities, cultural heritage, and natural environment.

Hawai'i is more than just a destination; it is our home, rich in history, tradition, and natural beauty. However, the unrestricted acquisition of land by foreign entities poses a significant threat to the social fabric and identity of our islands. We have witnessed the displacement of local residents, the exploitation of our resources, and the erosion of our unique way of life due to unchecked foreign investment.

By enacting measures to limit foreign ownership, Bill SB2617 will help safeguard our land, resources, and communities for future generations of Hawaiians. It will empower local residents to retain control over their ancestral lands, promote sustainable development, and ensure equitable access to housing and natural resources.

Furthermore, restricting foreign ownership aligns with the principles of self-determination and sovereignty for the indigenous people of Hawai'i. It honors their rights to govern their lands and protect their cultural heritage from external exploitation and commodification.

In conclusion, I urge you to support Bill SB2617 as a critical step towards preserving the integrity and autonomy of Hawai'i. Let us prioritize the well-being of our communities and the sustainability of our environment over the interests of foreign investors. Together, we can uphold the spirit of aloha and safeguard the future of our beloved islands.

Mahalo for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Brandi K Perez

Resident of Wai'anae, O'ahu

email: kaileaboy@yahoo.com

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:51:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miki Lene	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of SB 2617. For far too long, foreign buyers and those with outside interests have been allowed to treat our Hawai'i like their transactional playground. This has led to where we are today, where many of us cannot even afford to live here and are forced to live with family or in spaces that are not sufficient for thriving. Or worse yet, are forced to move away and disconnect from our roots and the only place we've ever known as home. Please pass this bill in consideration of us kama'āina and 'ōiwi whose 'ohana have been here for generations and would like to buy and live and thrive here. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:52:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lokeni Siuta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Born and raised on the beautiful island of Oahu, I could never have imagined leaving this place, multi generations of my family living and calling this place our home. We were taught at a young age to work hard, get married, buy a home and raise a family. That was always my dream.

The reality is that with the rising costs of living and home prices starting off at the mid 1 million dollars we can no longer afford to live here. The dream for myself and many others are out of reach.

Its a shame that we have foreign investors buying up inventory for vacation homes and vacation rentals leaving it empty for more than half the year. These are homes that could be filled by local families, living here in our community investing in our community.

Please, my family as a whole beg you to please pass this bill with the hopes that we can one day afford to live here and keep our families together.

I support this bill

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:52:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clinton Brewer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I 1st arrived to Oahu in 1999 and was instantly welcomed , fell in love with everything the island was, daughter was born at Kaiser and we lived in Waialua (cement city), then I spent time deploying to Iraq a couple of times with the 25 Infantry Division and was medically retired in the place I love. The dramatic, depressing and shameful deterioration of Oahu on so many different levels is the direct result of not having control measures such as what this bill is seeking to gain more control of. This has to be the most important and effective and needed Bill submitted in decades. Support!!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:52:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelica Mahaulu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because of the unfair advantage foreign investors have to Hawaiian Land. Native Hawaiian and locals should have the first opportunity to own land in their own country of origin and birth place.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:52:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deena Kaiawe Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am in support of SB2617.

I will soon be priced out of paradise, my Hawai'i. Born and in Kealakekua of Hawai'i Island. I am one quarter Hawaiian and don't qualify for Hawaiian Homelands. Many farms I grew up next to have been bought and sold over the years by outside buyers and I barely know the residents on my street, who all from out of state and out of country.

I wanted to farm the land my great grandparents, grandparents and parents farmed. But within two years, I will have to leave to be able to afford a home elsewhere.

I support this Bill and hope we can stay in Hawai'i Nei when things change.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:53:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maximus Warner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiian priced out of their home

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:53:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keanna Ragasa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Keanna Ragasa and I am a local resident of Hawai'i. I support bill SB2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:53:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Kalahiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the built hauling all foreigners from buying land in Hawaii. That is driving out us Kanaka to seek different lands to afford. Keep Hawaii in Hawaii hands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:54:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Urasaki-Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Local residents have been pushed out of our native lands and it's sad to see that outsiders have more of a priority just because they have money/power to get to what they want. Hawaii is such a small tight knit community that is trying its best to continue on our traditions and legacies all while fighting these outside forces. Please deeply consider this bill because this will change the outcome of Hawaiians that have been fighting for so long. And give us some kind of peace of mind. We have longed for this kind of change and I hope this isn't our last. I hope we continue to find change for the betterment of our future keikis generations.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:55:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalei Adolpho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Born and raised in hawaii. Went to school got an education, never got in trouble, saved money to not go into debt , worked and continue to work very hard. I dont think at this rate ill ever be able to afford a home here. This makes my heart so sore!! Please do something so our people can stay home. So our youth can be connected to their culture, so our babies can grow up with their cousins, so hawaii can continue to be Hawaii!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:55:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darian Kaneaiakala-Kupau Miranda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill needs to go through! It's unfair to the people of Hawai'i who want to own a home in the place they were born and raised when people from out of state/country buy up the properties just to rent it out or resell! It's hard out here to afford a single family home, especially in todays economy. The state government should be helping out their own instead of making everything about money and their greed!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:57:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Ann Napualani Furtado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The significance of the indigenous population on the island often goes overlooked. This proposed bill could greatly benefit the local and indigenous communities that are facing displacement from their homes. Over the past five years, more than half of my Ohana has had to relocate due to the exorbitant costs of living and the skyrocketing real estate prices driven by foreign investors in Hawaii. The island is turning into a dumping ground in the middle of the ocean, and it seems that only the indigenous and local communities truly care about preserving its natural beauty.

From an investor's perspective, it's perplexing that the government is permitting this to happen. Why sell valuable land to foreigners who may not have a genuine concern for its well-being? The current situation is absurd, and the islands are deteriorating into dangerous environments. Desperate and impoverished residents are forced to coexist with billionaires, leading to a surge in crime and an unprecedented spike in murder rates. It's time to address these pressing issues and prioritize the well-being of the local and indigenous communities over profit-driven decisions that harm the very essence of our islands.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:56:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mara Paio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stop foreigners from buying property in Hawaii. We need to preserve the land for the people of Hawaii and make it more affordable to stay and raise their families here.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:57:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaika Smith-Koa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I IKAIKA SMITH-KOA, and as a lineal descendant of KAMEHAMEHA I, House of Moana, House of Keawe, do hereby AGREE AND IN FAVOR of the bill being proposed (SB2617)

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:58:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick waller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands, we need sustainability in our community and by having all these people from the mainland coming in on our aina it is destroying our culture and future generations of kanaka

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:59:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Anela Kahapea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that foreign people should not be able to buy land in oahu. We already have many Hawaiians displaced by the current influx of people coming here driving up the real estate and making things impossible for hawaiians to buy land and our kupunas can not remain in their homes cause property taxes are so high.. I am Hawaiian and was born and raised here and want to be able to remain in our indigenous lands. If foreign buyers get to buy homes here for 2x what it is worth we will never stand a chance to remain here.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:59:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moana Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. I feel this will definitely help the local people of Hawaii actually be able to afford to buy a house in the islands. Thank You - Moana Wong

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:59:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey F Mizuno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:59:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki Kepoo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a native resident I strongly support this bill and request the senate to pass unanimously and allow our people to remain in the islands for generations to come.

This bill does NOT infringe on any rights as the option to still pursue residence is available, however, it rightfully adjusts according to the tier of buyers. It works the same as any other buying power for other parts of Hawaii and beyond.

i strongly urge our representatives and senators to do right by their people and vote YES to this bill.

mahalo for your time.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheree Wee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in desperate need for this bill to be passed in order for our local citizens to be able to afford to live in Hawaii. At this point, if we don't stop the bleeding, our children will no longer be able to afford to live here. If you care about Hawaii and the local people who make it special, please support and pass this bill. We can not continue to sell our property and land to foreigners because all they do is turn around and rent it out for ridiculous prices, which also increase the rent prices on our local families. Please pass this bill and make a difference while you're in office.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:00:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:00:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Krug	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is such an impactful piece of legislation that will finally prioritize Hawai'i's people. I strongly support focusing on us and the needs of our place and people.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:00:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimana Alexander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill to prohibit foreign entities to buy real property in Hawaii. Keep Hawai'i Hawaiian!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:01:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Tinao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Leah Tinao SUPPORT SB2617. As a Native Hawaiian, and person who has grown up in Hawai'i, it's sickening to see how OUTRAGEOUS our housing market has become. SB2617 will help limit and control our housing market. Preventing foreign buyers/investors from participating in our LIMITED housing resources. Therefore, hopefully stabilizing our market, or at least giving local residents a fairer chance to purchase land to have a home! Living in Hawai'i with very limited land and resources we need to do better to manage this situation. SB2617 is a start! We are tired of being PRICED out of paradise!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:01:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Harders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support this bill. Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:01:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Kaohi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Kanaka Maoli and born-and-raised resident of O‘ahu, I have been priced out paradise. Growing up it never occurred to me that I would one day be forced to leave the islands with the ever increasing presence and pressure from those born elsewhere. Now looking towards the future of our keiki, who will give them the opportunity to know their ‘āina? Kānaka make up less than 10% of the population of O‘ahu according to the 2023 census. How incredibly sad is that? On our own land, no less. This our people's call to action for the future of our homeland and keiki. We are asking that the people we trust to upkeep our communities with that the make the pono decision here and keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:02:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randi-Anne Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:02:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristine knight	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a realtor I've seen many local families become discouraged from purchasing because the prices of homes have become relatively overpriced. Many family's are leaving Hawaii because they simply cannot afford a mortgage as well as the cost of living . Many locals have been put in positions of working 2 sometimes 3 jobs to be able to afford living here . Kids are being left neglected hence the many crimes committed by such young kids .

many Out of state investors with their purchases are driving the prices too high and many aren't able to qualify . Flippers although they are saying they are "fixing the problem " by renovating homes ultimately with the cost of living here along with the prices of supplies we all know they'd need to upsale to make a decent profit .

In conclusion I oppose this bill and would like the city and state to establish more programs to help the locals afford to purchase a home in their home state .

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:03:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirk Corenevsky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it is unethical to continue to allow foreign citizens and entities to purchase land in other countries when their citizens are opposed to it. Foreign citizens and entities always inflate the economy of the country they invade, and displace those who live in that country. Personally, this affects me further since it is my homeland being purchased, on top of the illegal occupation the United States of America imposes on Hawaii. No Hawaiian or American could truly oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:03:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danae Ryan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please preserve the limited Hawaiian land for #1 the people of the state of Hawaii and #2 all of the United States citizens. This is a very limited resource needed to preserve the historic culture and families that live there . Allowing foreign buyers reduces that limited resource to those that need it the most . Stand up for the people you said you were here to support . Protect the aina for her people .

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:03:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meleen L Corenevsky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this Bill. Hawaii is overrun with foreign property owners taking up limited residences for our native Hawaiian and kamaaina families. It also contributes to inflated home prices for what inventory is left. Please support this bill for the future of Hawaii and our keiki.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:03:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey A Drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this! We have to at least try to keep more local families from being priced out of paradise and having to move away from their community, culture, extended families, etc. Their leaving their roots not only impacts them but it also negatively impacts the communities they leave behind. Please make this happen! Thank you

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:03:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee Fung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill! Please protect our local residents.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:03:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Selina Lalau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom this may concern,

I stand in agreement with the Long Overdue Bill. This is for our kupuna. This is for our 'Ohana. This is for our keiki and the future generations to come. We must continue to protect Hawai'i by ensuring that our native people can afford to continue to live here with 'Ohana. We will no longer be priced out of our birthplace and out of the land that our family has lived before colonization. We welcome visitors, but we must continue to strive towards protecting our land and keeping Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands. Mahalo piha and Fa'afetai tele lava.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:04:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacie Kela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou!

Today I am writing testimony due to the fact that I am one of the only thousands who continue to be on "The List" for Hawaiian Homelands. My parents decided to move to the mainland back in 1971. Priced out of paradise because there's more opportunity coming to America. Priced out of paradise back then too now that I think about it. My siblings and I have become a part of the land of opportunity and are blessed and still continue to be blessed to learn what the good ol yankee dollar has brought us up to be. Now that I am older and learning how a people like us, the Kanaka Maoli keep being pushed and bullied off our lands with nowhere to go just makes me feel so heart wrenched that the feeling in my na'au becomes so tight from the generational trauma from the last 130 years. Have you ever had that feeling? Olu olu, please consider our Kanaka Maoli, and stop leaving us homeless when this land is our land. We were here from the beginning and need to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. Malama our Aina for the many generations to come! Mahalo Me Kealoha Nui ❤️

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:05:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tori-Lyn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Tori-Lyn Pi'ilani Smith. I am a kanaka maoli mother of two, a 11 and 9-year old. I'm a social worker and school counselor that has worked to serve my community for over 10 years in these roles. I was born and raised in Kāne'ōhe, but moved to Wai'anae in 2014 due to the increased cost of housing 10 years ago. Unfortunately, the problem has only been exacerbated in recent years with more foreigners purchasing homes in Hawai'i since the pandemic. How much longer will we wait before trying to stop this from happening? How many more of our 'ohana members have to leave home and move elsewhere as we continued to be priced out? I worry for my family. My partner and I both hold masters-level degrees and are still struggling to cover housing costs each month. Hawai'i is being lost to foreigners, daily. Please pass bills that help Hawaiians stay in Hawaii. Our kids future depends on it.

Mahalo for considering,

Tori-Lyn Pi'ilani Smith

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:05:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Yei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is a long time coming. Myself and my wife make over 100k a year and still could only comfortably afford a town home.

My realtor explained the real-estate market as this. The value of a home is not its actual worth, it's how much the people competing in the market are willing to pay for it. We are competing with the wealthiest people in the world with no help from our government. Not to mention many of the homes aren't even occupied as they are being rented out as AIR BNB or other similar websites/apps with no repercussions for breaking the law.

The citizens that work and live here need this bill so that they and their family's can continue to work and live in state as well.

The State can't even pay their employees a living wage which is leading to huge vacancies throughout the entire state system.

If we don't do something now to help our citizens Hawaii will no longer be livable for a middle class. We will see a society of ultra rich and low income citizens dependant on government assistance.

We have to stop our islands from being a giant investment propertt and take care of our citizens. I urge all reading this testimony to pass this bill. This is just a start to what we need to do to make our state livable for a working class.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:06:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bernadette Rose Mahiehie Kanoelani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:07:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Van Natta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill preventing all foreign persons and entities from buying our land in Hawaii. Enough is enough.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:07:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Washington	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill that will not allow foreigners to purchase property in Hawaii if they are not a resident. I feel the locals who were born and raised here are being pushed out of our homeland because the price is being driven up by foreign investors who don't even live here. They have no ties to our lands, our cultures and our way of life. We should be able to keep what we have strived to build for ourselves and our families. Our land is too beautiful to be over developed. Keep our lands in our community.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:18:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:09:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Javier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

i am born raised and live on Maui. I am in FULL support of the "Long Overdo" bill. It's time has come (it actually came long ago).

mahalo

Jerry Javier - Kihei, Maui

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:09:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Noa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I a native Hawaiian resident strongly support this bill to prevent foreigners from buying land in the state of Hawaii. For too long have outsiders been able to buy up land and drive up the cost of living forcing native Hawaiians and local residents to move away. I hope this bill will help keep Hawaiians in Hawaii and give our people a chance to change things for the better.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:10:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cameron crook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Due to the limited property available, only citizens of the United States and full-time residents of Hawaii should be allowed to purchase.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:11:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiian people should come first in being able to own and stay living in their ancestors land. Foreigners should have no right to buy out land that was illegally acquired. Hawaiian lands should stay in Hawaiian hands.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:12:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alohilani Temple	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the passing of this bill.

For years our Kanaka have been taken advantage of. Today, we have a chance to change the law for today and our future keiki. It is becoming harder to live in

my Ku'u home hanau. I am a born and raised Kanaka Maoli who cannot even afford to buy a home in my homelands. Yet, these foreigners are allowed to come from Tim-buk-tu and purchase land and housing without even seeing it. "Priced out of paradise". What will be left when my keiki are adults in my position? Will there even be homes left? Will they too have to move from their homeland because they simply cannot afford it? When are we as a state going to start prioritizing the people of Hawai'i!?

The answer is simply. Today is the day.

Mahalo!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:12:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany akai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. We need to stop mainland and foreigners for purchasing homes in Hawaii. The cost of living is so high and a lot of Hawaii's citizens aren't able to purchase a home on their own homeland because they are being outbid or it's just too expensive to purchase a home. Passing this bill will give Hawaii citizens able to purchase home for their families.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:12:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanne PK Montizor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands for our na keiki future. We need to keep our Kanaka Maoli home in our islands, without the people we loose our language and culture. Hawaiians need to be the majority again, and making restrictions on land ownership will help this dream come true. Mahalo Nui for your time.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:12:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Villa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill and even think the criminal penalties outlined therein are too lenient. For too long our family members and friends have been forced to rent or move away, being priced out of becoming home owners in the lands of their own birth or that of their ancestors because of foreign ownership. Buyers from the continent, including the US military, have also contributed to the overpriced Hawai'i housing market. I would rather see legislation that requires prospective buyers to have filed a minimum of 10 years of Hawai'i state income tax returns OR show a valid Hawai'i birth certificate. That's what the legislation should be, but I'm willing to settle for the Long Overdue Bill as a starting point. The Hawai'i AG erroneously states that this Bill is unconstitutional. Why is she lying to the people of Hawai'i, and why is she trying to protect foreign entities instead of fulfilling her obligations to defend the interests of Hawai'i? It is not unconstitutional to prohibit foreigners from purchasing US land. At least a dozen US states have successfully enacted similar legislation. Shouldn't an Attorney General know this? This is also very reflective of Josh Green's decision making and incompetence, as she was his nominee. Pass this Bill. Stand up for the people of Hawai'i. Stand up for Hawai'i's keiki and give their futures a chance by passing this important piece of legislation. I want to know that the politicians in office today care about my children, and my nieces and nephews by enacting legislation that actually gives them something as opposed to all the legislation this State passes that too often takes away from us! If you don't care about our kids, then we need to vote every one of you out of office!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:13:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainoa Kaleimamahu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this! I feel like this will get hawaii on the right track to keep local familes from leaving our beloved State. Keep out the foreign investors from driving up our housing costs. 🇺🇸

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:13:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manulani Garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please protect our aina! I support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:13:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Kauhi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that this bill is long overdue for us citizens of the kingdom of Hawaii. As a kanaka maoli, I believe this is the first step required to right the wrongs of our state and its land. With limited supply, we should not ever sell off to foreigners. I do not believe we should sell to anyone with no direct ties to this land. Our people are struggling and have been for decades though bullying practices of foreigners who came in and TOOK what they wanted. The options to purchase and own real property should be only be offered to those who come from this land or who have ties to this land. Market values would not be in the state they are currently in if this was in place. People here cannot afford to buy because outside entities are buying with their outside money. I support this bill immensely and am proud that someone has introduced it this session.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:14:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. Thank you.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:15:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candee-Jo Jardine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Candee-Jo Jardine. I am a 35 year old single mother residing on Hawai'i island. I support this bill wholeheartedly. "Making it" in Hawai'i has become increasingly difficult, and the housing situation is dire. I remember when I was 12, my mother (who was a single parent like myself) bought her first home. It was an old plantation home on a tiny lot that needed a ton of work, but she managed to do it. She bought that home for roughly 70 thousand dollars. Today, 70 thousand dollars will not even buy you a vacant lot in most areas.

My seven year old daughter and I live in a small studio that requires us to go outside of our main living space to access our bathroom and our kitchen. We pay \$1000 a month and were "lucky" to have even found that. Don't get me wrong, I am thankful that this space allows us safety and a roof over our heads. But I have been looking for 2+ years for a space that I can afford and that does not require me to drive an hour and a half each way for my work commute and affords us some semblance of a "normal" living situation- like our own rooms, or not having to go outside when we need to use the restroom. Most rental spaces (on this island) go for a minimum of about \$1500, just for a shared room in a home or a studio with next to no amenities. Most spaces that would allow my daughter to have her own room start at about \$2200, wildly beyond the means of my single income. I make "too much" money to qualify for any affordable housing programs, and yet not enough for us to afford a truly comfortable space. BUYING a home, at this point, seems like a pipe dream.

Do I think that passing this bill would fix all of these problems? No. However, I do think it would be a huge step in the right direction. I work in hospitality, in the heart of a huge area littered with vacation homes. Homes that sit vacant for most of the year while so many local people are struggling to even afford the homes we live in, and often have to share with others, year round. I have watched as year after year, people who do not live here come in and buy up land to erect second homes, driving housing prices to astronomical heights. Why are outsiders allowed to come in and buy, buy, buy, when our own people can barely afford to rent let alone have a clear pathway to homeownership? We need to focus our efforts on making sure that local people can continue to live and THRIVE in the place they call home. This bill is one step in the right direction of achieving that. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Candee-Jo Jardine

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:15:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shalin Sylvester	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Shalin Sylvester. My ohana and I born and raised Hawaii. It's sad to see all native Hawaiians move from their home because rent going up and we no more place for stay. It's not fair that we don't get the same luxury as these haoles that fly down from the mainland. How come? Our ancestors never had to struggle and fight for their land. It was automatic that it was theirs. There's no more enough land for native Hawaiians to make house to have people buying up land and building all like stuff where they'd sell their overpriced stuff. Give land to hawaiian hands. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:15:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katrina jardine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian it is almost impossible to stay and live comfortably here in Hawaii. Hawaii will never be the same if there are no native Hawaiians here left. This bill needs to go into affect so that generations of Hawaiians can live in Hawaii without having every single property or home snatched up by outsiders and raising the property taxes all around the islands. Hawaii is our home and we shouldn't come second to outsiders. Enough of our people have already been priced out of paradise and if nothing is done it'll be too late and more Hawaiians will leave. We cannot let this happen.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:16:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My wife and I have a family of 3 young boys. We are currently renters but would love to be home owners one day. The cost of a 3 bedroom home, to fit our family, is way to far outside of our budget. I work at a power plant on island, and combined income for my wife and I is close to 180k a year. For the lower wages in Hawaii, combined with the over inflated housing prices, raising our family here indefinitely seems to be impossible. If this bill were too pass, there seems to be hope in the future for local families to have affordable, and reasonable, home prices. There is too little land on the island, along with too much permitting red tape and too little options for local residents, to still fulfill the monetary gains of foreign investors. I hope that this legislation puts the interest of the next generation first, and passes this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:16:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would love for my family to one day own a home in Hawaii. I would love to one day be able to retire in my home in Hawaii. Stopping non residents would make that a possibility for the people of the state of Hawaii to purchase a home. Instead of having to move away to afford a home and retire away from our island home.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:16:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rona Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:16:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keawe O'Connor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:17:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clifford Laronal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill!

mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:18:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brayden Napoleon-Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm a current UH Manoa Student graduating in Spring 2024. My options to owning a property in Hawaii is near impossible even in the long term, I have a better chance owning something on mainland rather than every owning a place in my hometown. I heard about how most of the newer apartments by Ala Moana are owned by foreigners who don't even use them, only if they come to vacation here, if that. I feel we need to stop people buying these places and not using them, maybe even applying a vacancy tax for those people so they are discouraged to buy.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:19:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MICAH KAIMANA PACATANG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:19:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaylee Alconcel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill! Its so sad that Hawaiians have to move away from home because we are being priced out of Hawaii due to foreigners driving the market up! We can't afford to buy homes and most Hawaiians will only own a home if passed down through generations, I know that it is the only way my family and I will ever own a home. Please keep Hawaii, Hawaii & pass this bill!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:20:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Native Hawaiians, Polynesians and locals that lived here all of their life should have preference in buying property and land in Hawai'i. We are getting pushed out of our 'Aina when we allow foreigners to buy up properties and land mostly at high rates which causes the market to go higher and doesn't allow the Native Hawaiians and local population an opportunity to own. We need to prioritize the people that steward this land because without us there will be NO Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:20:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Lota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB2617. We must BAN the ownership of our lands to those outside of Hawaii. Foreign interest has led to nothing but the rape and exploitation of our lands and people.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:21:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharee Orr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Foreigners should not be able to purchase property.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:21:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Ioane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony. I am in support of bill SB2617. There are to many many of our people moving away from Hawaii due to the tide of costs in purchasing a home. We have so much people coming in from the mainland and buying homes which is making the cost of purchasing a home ridiculous. We already have high costs here in Hawaii and it's sad to see family members moving because they can't afford to live here. The saying prices out of paradise is exactly what Hawaii is moving into. Please we as a people are begging you to make this happen.

Mahalo

Melanie Ioane

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:21:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Toalua Tuiasosopo	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha-

I support bill SB2617 that Senator Brenton Awa. Foreign entities should not have precedence or even allowed to own REAL ESTATE property here in the State of Hawaii over KANAKA MAOLI and RESIDENTS of Hawaii who are born and raised here. This bill is a long time coming. Many states have stricter laws regarding NON RESIDENTS & FOREIGNERS Not being allowed to buy or own Real Estate in their states so why does the AG say it's unconstitutional! Tell the AG to focus on the rising CRIME problems arising in our communities she can make better use of her time tackling CRIME!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:22:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ayla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am supporting this bill as a young mother of 2 who is concerned with our future in regards to housing. There are foreign people that by massive homes only for luxury. They don't need the space, they just have the money to afford it. Meanwhile, the low income community members struggle to find an affordable home or even keep a house. I refuse to move to the mainland. I will rather live in the bush then get priced out of Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:22:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Taylor Mitchell am in support of SB2617. Working in the real estate industry for the last four (4) years I have noticed the influx of foreign entities buying real property in Hawaii. I support this bill because: (1) it will help prevent speculative real estate practices, which involve purchasing property with the expectation of profiting from future price appreciation rather than using or developing the property. Investors may buy and sell quickly, contributing to market volatility and potentially driving up property prices without adding value to the community. Restrictions on foreign ownership can help mitigate these speculative practices and promote more sustainable development; (2) maintain affordable housing for local residents; and (3) protect Hawaiian culture and land from potential exploitation. I implore you to vote in support for SB2617. Thank you for your time and attention in reading my testimony.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:23:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaysha Garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. As a local who has born and raised on this island, it continuously saddens me to see so many family and friends move off the island for "better" opportunities. However, when it comes to the real, hard truth; they are just being priced out. People who are not native to this community and culture, not all, buy out our lands and then rent or sell it for a price that locals cannot afford. With inflation that is more than wages are increasing, locals are forced to live elsewhere or contribute to the rising homelessness. If this bill passes, it will help locals continue to keep their legacy and generations here to perpetuate our culture and grow up, if they choose, where their family and friends are. I am sure you have heard it before that there is nothing like the local, ALOHA, culture. Let's do our part to keep it alive and thriving by keeping Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:23:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Ramsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Hawaii needs to stop these foreign entities from purchasing land. I can't believe that this hasn't already been brought up. These foreign entities don't care about people from Hawaii. They have no respect for the beauty or the people. They are only seeing dollar signs. Enact this bill before it's too late.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:23:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Frank	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Foreign investors are pricing out the people of Hawaii. We no longer are able to afford to even rent here. Stop this now!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:24:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paige Kauhi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The rising cost of property purchases by foreigners are driving the cost high- prohibiting people who are of Hawaiian decent, born and raised in Hawai'i from being able to compete with the rising costs. The cost of living and the cost of homes are not able to support the rising prices we are faced with.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:24:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Tanuvasa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony to show my Support for SB2617 prohibiting the purchase of real property in the State of Hawaii by foreign and outside entities.

Every Kānaka and Kama'aina should be afforded the PRIORITY opportunity to own and live in Hawaii at an affordable cost.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:24:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Shook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I support SB2617 to protect Hawaii from foreign investors for my family and descendants. Foreign buyers have contributed to the diaspora of Native Hawaiians to the continent and beyond. Hawaii is not for sell and belongs to Native Hawaiians and it's allies.

Mahalo,

Kawika Shook

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:24:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill that prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State of Hawaii or any interest in real property in the State of Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:25:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Pahio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2617, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

PROHIBITS FOREIGN PRINCIPALS FROM ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE OR ANY INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE, EXCEPT A DE MINIMUS INDIRECT INTEREST.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ON
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

DATE:

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

TIME:

3:00 PM

PLACE:

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

IN STRONG SUPPORT

Welina mai e Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees,

My name is Kanani Pahio; I am a Native Hawaiian resident of Hawai‘i Island.

I am testifying in strong support of bill SB2617 which prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest.

According to the 2020 census, 55% of the more than 680,000 Native Hawaiians in the U.S. are living away from our ancestral homelands, the place that so uniquely defines the beauty of our people, our culture, and our space on this honua (planet) (hpr.org).

Challenged by over-tourism, grotesque real estate prices, the highest cost of living in the nation, and militarization, more Native Hawaiians are being displaced and seeking economic refuge in the form of affordable housing and income opportunities outside Hawai‘i.

Keep in mind that Native Hawaiians are the second lowest income earning population in Hawai‘i (hawaiiibusiness.com). Despite this, Native Hawaiians are forced to compete with foreign investors, second-home owners, and recent settlers, for the few to no housing options available. Think of the level at which this competition exists - from the ultra-rich who are buying up huge swaths of land, to the mega-rich who are driving up housing prices across the islands, to the fantasy-land “influencer” who takes up space for a bit to up their social value. All while displacing Native Hawaiians from their ancestral homelands.

Other states enacted a foreign ownership law in the 2023 legislative session including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia.

So the argument that such laws are ‘unconstitutional‘ should be dismissed based on the fact that several other states have enacted similar laws.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Kanani Pahio

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:26:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
daneen catian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I'm submitting my testimony for SB2617.

As a local Hawaii born resident I believe HI land & property should only be available for kanaka born & residents (physically living in Hawaii for 10+ minimum years) to purchase. To help keep Hawaii families at home in the islands & not feel forced to move away to the states. Please Help protect future generations to stay & occupy & live in Hawaii which we call home. Do not allow foreigners to come in a buy up all the land.

Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:26:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Acio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Is is unconstitutional for foreigners to buy Hawaiian land all the while increasing property sales to locals making it almost impossible for locals to own the very lands we grew up on. The state of Hawaii owes us the proper leadership and care in this matter so Hawaii will always be our Home and the integrity of Hawaii and its Kamaaina be held in tact with Aloha and not financial burdens.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:26:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Decenzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:26:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kila Phillips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Bill SB2617

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill SB2617, which seeks to restrict foreigners from purchasing land in Hawai'i. As a resident of Hawai'i, I am deeply concerned about the impact of foreign ownership on our local communities, cultural heritage, and natural environment.

Hawai'i is more than just a destination; it is our home, rich in history, tradition, and natural beauty. However, the unrestricted acquisition of land by foreign entities poses a significant threat to the social fabric and identity of our islands. We have witnessed the displacement of local residents, the exploitation of our resources, and the erosion of our unique way of life due to unchecked foreign investment.

By enacting measures to limit foreign ownership, Bill SB2617 will help safeguard our land, resources, and communities for future generations of Hawaiians. It will empower local residents to retain control over their ancestral lands, promote sustainable development, and ensure equitable access to housing and natural resources.

Furthermore, restricting foreign ownership aligns with the principles of self-determination and sovereignty for the indigenous people of Hawai'i. It honors their rights to govern their lands and protect their cultural heritage from external exploitation and commodification. In conclusion, I urge you to support Bill SB2617 as a critical step towards preserving the integrity and autonomy of Hawai'i. Let us prioritize the well-being of our communities and the sustainability of our environment over the interests of foreign investors. Together, we can uphold the spirit of aloha and safeguard the future of our beloved islands.

Mahalo for your attention to this important matter. I sincerely hope you remember that your positions are to Represent us people. Not make decisions for us based solely on your own opinions.

Sincerely,

Kila Phillips
Resident of Kailua Kona, Hawai'i
8083443996
Anelakai@gmail.com

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:27:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monique Nagasawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill 100% because it'll help local families stay in Hawaii without worrying about being chased out by foreigners who have no respect, no kuleana and no knowledge of our home land.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:29:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Sirling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As natives of this land, we have a kuleana to protect our land, prepare our land, thrive with our land, and pass our land on to OUR future generations. It is the Kanaka Maoli who deserve to be seen, safe, and supported in our lāhui. Not the foreigners who romanticize paradise, but the kanaka kulaiwi who this land is destined. This bill is one step closer to giving the Kanaka o Hawai'i our LAND BACK. The ignorance of the white man to tell us what we do not deserve is horrible and intolerable. This is a calling for the people of Hawai'i to return home.

Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:30:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaunohea Peneku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian it is nearly impossible to purchase and own land, on our own indigenous 'āina. This is due to numerous reasons, however the biggest hindrance is because we are unable to compete with the foreign and wealthy. This is hewa, we as the native people of these lands should be given a fighting chance to own, live, and thrive here. Myself and my 'ohana, wholeheartedly support this bill and what it could do not just for our 'ohana, but the countless others hoping to remain here in our islands. Please approve this bill so that we, the Native Hawaiians, can stay within our lands and raise our keiki where we have for generations. This is the start to our people rebuilding our people, language, and culture. This is a stepping stone for Native Hawaiians and for other indigenous peoples facing the same hardships.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:31:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darien K Fronda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiian lands belong in Hawaiian hands. People who was born and raised here should have a chance to buy the land with no outsiders stepping in with their money.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:32:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaun Dydasco	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a local, born and raised, and as a military member, I support this bill, but I do have a slight concern. Most of us are not 100% Hawaiian and with that, most of us have foreign blood line. It would seem unfair to keep foreigners from embracing the American freedoms that our ancestors dreamed of and achieved (legally of course.) In any case, I understand all the chatter and historical issues of how Hawaiian land was illegally occupied and attained. Maybe there should be a statute that regulates the length of time a foreigner must reside as a resident before they can purchase land or house in the state. Maybe it exists, but I am ignorant to this if it does and may sound like I am out of place bringing it up. I am 44 years old and I only became a home owner last year. I don't blame anyone for my financial downfalls or irresponsibility to my credit, but it was disheartening to see non-locals purchasing homes and seeing the prices of housing rise which probably contributed to this, but it was starting to kill all hope of ever owning a home. I don't think anyone, regardless of ethnicity or race should be granted entitlements or special privileges, everything should be earned. My statement may sound conflicting or contradicting, but I support the bill, but I think it may need some revisions. Set a time duration that a foreigner must reside in the State (maybe 5-10 years), limit the purchasing of real property to maybe 1 dwelling, 1 land (limit the amount or size of the plot of land), and 1 business property per family. Anyways, I'm an uneducated guy and maybe not that smart, but this is my opinion on the matter and if you are confused, I do support the bill, but revisions or additions are needed.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:33:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill. Real estate in Hawaii, with the ongoing demand to live in paradise, is a cash cow. If we intend to keep the people in HI, we need to make houses affordable. Market can't do that if foreigners are buying, fixing it up, and jacking up the prices of homes. Are they truly then contributing to the economy if they don't even live here?

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:33:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tirrellyn Mahina Perreira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Bill SB2617

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill SB2617, which seeks to restrict foreigners from purchasing land in Hawai'i. As a resident of Hawai'i, I am deeply concerned about the impact of foreign ownership on our local communities, cultural heritage, and natural environment.

Hawai'i is more than just a destination; it is our home, rich in history, tradition, and natural beauty. However, the unrestricted acquisition of land by foreign entities poses a significant threat to the social fabric and identity of our islands. We have witnessed the displacement of local residents, the exploitation of our resources, and the erosion of our unique way of life due to unchecked foreign investment.

By enacting measures to limit foreign ownership, Bill SB2617 will help safeguard our land, resources, and communities for future generations of Hawaiians. It will empower local residents to retain control over their ancestral lands, promote sustainable development, and ensure equitable access to housing and natural resources.

Furthermore, restricting foreign ownership aligns with the principles of self-determination and sovereignty for the indigenous people of Hawai'i. It honors their rights to govern their lands and protect their cultural heritage from external exploitation and commodification.

In conclusion, I urge you to support Bill SB2617 as a critical step towards preserving the integrity and autonomy of Hawai'i. Let us prioritize the well-being of our communities and the sustainability of our environment over the interests of foreign investors. Together, we can uphold the spirit of aloha and safeguard the future of our beloved islands.

Mahalo for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tirrellyn Mahina Perreira
Resident of Honolulu

mahiz01@yahoo.com

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:33:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please pass this bill. I am born here on Oahu and it's almost impossible for me to buy a home because foreign investors keep buying here and are driving the price up a lot. I'm also so worried for my daughter. How can she afford to buy when she gets older?

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:33:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jason timm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of bill SB2617.

Many of my family, colleagues, school mates, close family friends and the list goes on. Many have been displaced from Hawaii due to foreign investors and businesses. Not to mention many who buy up Hawaii's real estate just to have a vacation home. While that vacation home sits empty for more than 3/4 of the year people in Hawaii are either forced to leave due to increasing house prices caused by the aforementioned entities. If this type of activity continues, think how many more people will be displaced.

Hawaii is the state of aloha but it seems that the people of Hawaii don't receive any from the government. Time and time again foreigners are put before the Hawaii community.

Other states have passed this exact type of law. Why is it that our attorney general is against this bill. Does this person have special interests with the investors? With all of the government corruption that has been proven in court, I wouldn't put it past me.

It's time for our government officials to make a stand for the people of Hawaii. We are constantly out in the back burner while we tend to the tourists and outside investors.

So please, Hawaii government, please give the people of Hawaii a chance to be able to live in Hawaii by making it illegal for foreigners, who don't reside in Hawaii to purchase land.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:34:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Furtado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617. This bill prevents foreign investors from purchasing land. As a Hawaiian in Hawaii, I have a great interest in seeing this bill pass. I care about what is happening in this state, the land, and its people. We need to have regulations to restrict foreign control over Hawaii. It is an amazing unique place that needs to be protected before it's completely ruined. Foreign investors continuing to buy it out is going to change things even more here. Please stop this from continuing and pass this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:34:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Awakuni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The simple fact that more and more locals are moving to the the US mainland is enough to make a law like this one a reality. The prices of rent and owning a home, an American dream, have been skyrocketing. The dream of owning a home should be available to those who are US citizens first, more so local residents, born and raised in Hawaii. Why do we keep allowing foreigners to buy up land, especially for profit? At the very least, they should be forced to live in these homes for an amount of time and not be able to use it as a business and/or a vacation home. How does this help our economy when the money leaves and goes back to the foreigners' countries? We need to find a way to keep homes in Hawaii for those who actually reside in Hawaii. Let's be honest Hawaii is barely an American State, everyone knows we are so different from the rest of the United States. If we keep allowing locals to leave this State we will be no different from the mainland. I'm sure that's something everyone can agree on.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:34:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslee O'Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support any efforts that will help stabilize the Hawaii real estate market in favor of the local Hawaii residents. We are in a housing crisis and need to make housing more available, less competitive and reasonably affordable for local residents.

As someone who held an active real estate license for 10 years in another state and as someone who was able to return to my home state of Hawaii as an adult, I feel that this issue is critical and of utmost importance in keeping our Hawaiian residents here on island. My mother is native Hawaiian and was born and raised on Oahu but after having a family was forced to move off island due to affordability and this was many years ago. Proof that this has been an issue for decades and this bill is truly long overdue.

Now more than ever we need to prioritize our residents over outside interests. The market has been driven to a point where it is out of reach for our everyday people and something must be done to stop it. Since the Lahaina fires, Maui is in a major crisis and real estate is the biggest problem. My own sister lost her home in the August fires and her family was forced to leave and seek refuge on the mainland and now because she is gone, my family is now planning on leaving, as well. I no longer have family here and it has been a devastating effect on myself and my family. I need my family more than I need Maui so it's a heartbreaking decision as none of us wanted to leave the place we consider home.

This CANNOT continue. Our people need affordable housing and they need it now!

Mahalo for considering this testimony.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:36:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherilyn Inouye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Our local residents are already priced out and cannot afford to live here, especially Native Hawaiians. What is Hawai'i without Hawaiians? Please pass this bill to stop the land grab by foreign money to displace the people of Hawai'i, and stop the ridiculous increase in land/property value which can only be afforded by foreign capitalists.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:36:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keani kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:36:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalani Ross	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please do what is best for our communities and pass this bill. Keeping as much ownership local as possible will help ensure a better economic future as well as a better quality of life for our people. If it was up to me, everything would be locally owned. This would keep more of Hawaii's economy here.

Mahalo,

Kalani Ross

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:37:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah Mo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All local families and Hawaiians need this bill to give the people a fighting chance to own their own property in the land they were born and raised in. With foreigners buying property it reduces the chances of any locals getting land. Thousands of local families stand firmly with this bill to prevent any foreigners from owning or purchasing land in Hawai'i. There are many families with multiple jobs that work endless shifts just to RENT from foreigners. That needs to change and this bill is a very good start to the many changes that needs to happen in Hawai'i. I hope this is read and taken into consideration for approval of this bill. Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:39:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Misty Griffiths	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It's time will keep our Aina in local hands!!

Thank you

Misty Griffiths

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:39:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiea Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this bill. This will only benefit our housing crisis and will better position our community, especially our most dispossessed to be afforded the right to call Hawai‘i and to be housed on our islands. This is a humanitarian right that historically the legislative body has acted against. It's time to prioritize our community, especially our kānaka maoli, who most live outside of the State because of toxic colonial laws that have protected special interest groups, multinational corporations, speculators, and international investors.

The States motto is Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka ‘Āina I Ka Pono. Given all the context, do what is pono and reciprocal, by not allowing and stopping these out of state individuals and entities who have preyed on our community for over a hundred thirty years to buy all our housing and pricing out the majority of our Hawai‘i community.

All it requires is political will. Step up and do what is pono for our people of Hawai‘i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:40:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Agliam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support 100%.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:40:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As Kanaka, Hawaiians we deserve for are Aina to be looked after are own people , we do not want foreigners coming to Hawaii and buying land for their own agendas because most of them come down to Hawaii just to have fun and trash up are islands and do whatever they like. I can say if they took care of the Aina and treated Hawaii like their home just as us kanaka's then I don't have no problem but the thing is most of them will never do that and keep treating are home like a resort and also us Hawaiians , local family in Hawaii can barely make ends meets cause mostly all the jobs are taking from foreigners and then we can't even get land anymore cause it's mostly all took in away from us. So please let us Hawaiians take care of our land the way we did for thousands of years already so Hawaii can go back to it's beautiful paradise and we can finally have Hawaii as Hawaii. 🍌🍌

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:41:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherrie blanch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern, I was born and raised on Oahu. I grew up in Kaneohe living in section 8 housing. My parents were hard working but never could afford to buy a home. I grew up believing that if i worked twice as hard as my mom and dad that one day i could afford to buy a home for all of us to live together. Unfortunately that was not the case, I had no other choice but to move away from home. My children dont know what its like to live back home and be proud of where they come from, they will never know what its like to grow up with auntys and uncles and cousins OR their amazing grandparents. All because my husband and i couldnt afford to live in kaneohe or anywhere else. We were priced out of our home. It is imperative that the people get the opportunity to buy without the rising prices on homes. And to be able to buy without having to compete with outside residents who are looking to retire or buy a vacation/ rental. It is time for the people of HAWAII to finally be put first! We deserve to stay in our motherland and so do our keiki.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:42:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
IVAN Kenji takamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ivan Takamoto. I was born and raised in Hilo and now reside in the place that I fell in love with as a kid, Waikiki. I have spent the past 15 years in the tourism industry, helping to make visitors dreams come true. I love sharing Hawai'i with the many visitors that touch down on our shores. The world comes to Hawai'i for the very thing that makes this place special. The Aloha spirit. There are hundreds of islands, yet Hawai'i holds a special power, and that is us. Each of us that was born and raised with the values and traditions that makes Hawai'i such a unique place. We lose that magic every time a Kama'aina has to move. The attorney General says this bill is unconstitutional, yet the 10th Amendment states:

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

"Reserved to the States respectively "

We the people of Hawai'i can make a rule regarding the purchase of what precious land we have left. We live on an island, a land mass of Massachusetts.

It's in our nature to give, we share and take care or each other, or atleast that is how I was raised. That is the essence of the Aloha spirit. To care and share. But at what point do we share to the point there is nothing left for us? I feel we need to protect our land and resources, we can share our smiles, our traditions and our Aloha. But this Aina has been pilfered enuff. SB2617 needs to pass so we can pass on Hawai'i to the next generation.

Mahalo

Ivan kenji Takamoto

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:42:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rhonda Akima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aa a Hawaiian, and resident, it is unbelievable how many foreigners are allowed to continue to buy up our homeland. The U.S. itself only allow certain amount of immigrants into the US but in Hawaii, if you have the money, it doesn't matter how many foreigners are buying up our land. How did we come to this, How is the State ignoring what's happening. we live in the country on farm land and pay \$7000 in land tax. We can barely pay this and everyone has to chip in to pay our taxes. And every year it rises because of the price foreigners are paying for our home, and our people find themselves looking for a cheaper place to live because they can no longer live in their own home. why does it come to this ? Law-makers, we need you to protect us! Please

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:42:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ipolani Yuen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:42:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samson Malani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill wholeheartedly. We've already witnessed the massive social and economic destruction of the lands of Hawaii and our local people, especially Native Hawaiians. This bill prevents all of that from continuing and we have seen bills exactly as this, pass in other states. It needs to pass!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:42:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moearii Phillips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of Bill SB2617. As a concerned Hawai'i Resident and an advocate for youth therapy and development in our community, I firmly believe that this bill is a necessary step towards addressing the challenges and promoting positive change in our community and beyond.

First and foremost, Bill SB2617 tackles a significant issue that has been negatively impacting our Native community—by stopping non-resident sell of hawai'i Land, we're one step closer to keeping our people here in hawai'i and helping our youth prepare to be lifetime residence in their own home. This bill demonstrates a proactive approach taken by our legislative body to not only acknowledge the problem but also actively work towards finding a solution.

Equally important is the fact that Bill SB2617 exhibits a collaborative approach by involving a diverse range of stakeholders in its development. The bill's provisions reflect a careful balance between the interests of various parties, ensuring that all perspectives are taken into account. This collaborative effort gives me confidence that the bill has been crafted with thorough consideration and is likely to garner broad support.

Moreover, I applaud the bill's focus on evidence-based solutions, which will not only help ensure its effectiveness but also foster a sense of accountability. By utilizing proven strategies and methodologies, we can have confidence that the proposed interventions will yield positive outcomes and make a tangible difference in the lives of those affected.

Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation for the transparency and accessibility of the bill's language. Its clarity and readability make it easy for residence like myself to understand the proposed changes and their potential impact. This transparency is crucial in fostering trust and engagement among the public, ensuring that everyone can actively participate in the legislative process.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support the passage of Bill SB2617. Its provisions offer a well-rounded and thoughtful approach to addressing the pressing issue at hand. I urge you to consider the potential positive impact this bill can have on our community and to support its advancement through the legislative process

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:43:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
HeNaniNoOeKaWahineUioIkePono Wandakan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:43:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My children should be able to purchase a home here and not have to move to the mainland. Even renting they overpay because foreigners are the landlords. Allow our children. The opportunity and the ability to enter the housing market and keep Hawaii Hawaii. Give them

hope and the ability to raise their families here in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:44:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer K Timmons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Long over due! There's absolutely no good reason why our land should ever be owned by foreign entities or webbed foreign people! Our resources are not for sale to other nations!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:44:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tobey Aguano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a 26 year old hawaiian, currently the idea of even being able to buy a home here is nonexistent. I see so many of my peers stay in the mainland after graduating college to be able to buy a home and live comfortably. Allowing foreigners to buy homes/properties here, will continue to push away the younger generations of hawaiians/locals. Our culture and aloha will be lost...

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:45:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charnelle Magno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Perfect title for this bill as it is LONG OVERDUE!

Im in SUPPORT of this bill! We need to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands and this is the ONLY way. I'm Hawaiian, 32 yrs old, mother of 3 living in a 1 bedroom apartment because we cannot afford to purchase a home. We, Hawaiians, should have first priority to any land, home at a fair market value as Peter Savio stated, \$400k-450k is affordable. Listen to the people attorney General. If this bill was approved a long time ago Lanai wouldn't have been bought by Larry Ellison, Oprah wouldn't have her huge property on Maui, Mark Zuckerberg wouldn't have his on Kauai and there is countless more top celebrities that have purchased too much land. This needs to end now! I will NOT move to the mainland for a better life because my roots and my children's roots are here in Hawaii. We will stand strong and show foreigners that we belong here and they do NOT! Brenton Awa for governor!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:45:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evelyn Cullen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Progressively supporting this bill to the end. The exchange of land ownership has dominated this land so much so little to no natives remain. We must prohibit and if this a step in that direction it should be supported. Mahalo!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:46:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenda Kaluna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:47:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Casey Delaries	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2617, I hope it passes

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:47:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii is now too expensive for most people to buy property if they don't already own and a lot of this has to do with foreigners and out of state residents buying up properties here. During the pandemic when interest rates were low so many off island people were making offers over bidding on places, waiving inspections, all sight unseen. This has completely jacked our housing market making it too expensive for even Hawaiian residents making middle class incomes to buy anything. Stop allowing people who do not contribute to Hawaii to come buy up property! They should be blocked and those that own from out of state, out of country should be heavily taxed to supplement the burden this has put on the Hawaiian residents. If you don't then no one that works any service industry jobs will be able to afford to live here in the future.

Sarah Taylor

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:47:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leona Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. As other states have done the same let's do this in Hawaii. Foreign investment in real estate drive prices up and take away housing for Hawaii residents.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:48:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lance Nobriga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, it is time our leaders take decisive action regarding the cost of living and housing here in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:49:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamalii Haumea-Thronas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou e nā pulapula o ka ‘aha‘ōlelo moku‘āina o Hawai‘i nei,

My name is Kamāli'i Haumea-Thronas, I am from Wailua on the island of Kaua'i but now reside in Hanamā'ulu, which you might not know as one of the most densely populated living areas on Kaua'i. I moved here 6 months ago because my family could not afford to continue living in our homestead in Wailua. We all got separated and are missing the most important thing to Hawaiians like us, 'ohana. I don't own the house I live in now, nor will I probably ever own a house here in Hawai'i. Cheap houses made available are quickly snatched up mostly by people who did not suffer the generational trauma we as Hawaiians have endured here, or offshore individuals whose wealth comes from an economy that isn't as expensive as Hawai'i. I work three jobs to pay rent as a freshly-turned-21-year-old. Housing prices increase as more and more foreigners flood the housing market, choosing to make Hawai'i their new home. This bill would help level the housing market in Hawai'i allowing opportunity for Hawaiians to afford housing in the future and leaving a space for us. I kindly ask for your vote in support of this bill because there is no Hawai'i without Hawaiians.

Kamāli'i Haumea-Thronas

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:49:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Atasema sefo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha , I support this bill. Think about it , when our people is happy the whole world is happy . This is our home it means everything to us . They just buy a peice of land & call it a day. We are the aina we take care every inch of this place with all our mana! The Aina was given to us by Ke akua himself . The land of Aloha , God is Aloha (Love) ! There is no need to buy land. It's enough we already let people come & visit to witness ke akuas creation . Why take what is ours when all we did was share the aloha ? Is that not enough for them? We only have 8 beautiful islands , they got a million little mainlands posted back at there home . We accept the little. Yet they aren't appreciative for what they already do have. Just imagine.. what else they gonna take when time flys & they don't appreciate our aina (the little peice of land they took) ? We have to stop all this now & keep the aina in the Hands of our people! where it should've been in the first place . Mahalos , God bless . 🙌❤️

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:49:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chloe Amos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to support this bill because businesses such as Mahi Pono, owned by Canadians, should have no place in Hawai'i

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:49:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Kapua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a kanaka who was born and raised in Hawai'i, I hate the idea that any person can even OWN this land. But as I must now choose a lesser of evils, I must **SUPPORT SB2617** as I would rather kanaka and kama'aina be the care givers of this land than foreign entities who want to build tall buildings.

me ke aloha pumehana,

Cat Kapua

Wai'anae Valley ('o Ka'ala ku'u mauna)

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:50:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Akiona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to keep local land in local hands. All our real estate is being taken away from everyone who calls our islands home. Act now. Move towards Hawai'i being a state locals can continue living in, keeping roots here, and allowing future generations to have hope that they can live here too!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:50:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ihi Alapa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

my name is 'Ihi Alapa and I currently reside in Kahalu'u. I was born in Hau'ula and moved to the big island at the age of eight. I moved back to my home after I came home from college. My husband and I have one child. He's one. We support this bill. There are too many locals being driven out of their HOME because of foreign investors buying anything remotely resembling "affordable" property. Our 'ohana struggle to find permanent housing that we can raise our son in. We currently live in a multi generation house with my puna and tutu. I work three jobs. My income isn't enough for us to compete with foreign money. Too often we see old time houses getting bought out and torn down to build air bnbs, rentals, or flipping the home to create more profit for ab already wealthy entity that has no interest or care for native people. We know too many people that have to leave their home in Hawaii because no can afford. We are bordering this as well. I don't want to leave. I don't want to have to tell my son about his family that lives back home. You should NOT be able to buy Hawaiian lands if you are not a resident. Let's bring sustainability into this as well. How is the current culture of Hawaii real estate in any way sustainable ??? It caters to no one but the rich. Pretty soon we will have to call Hawaii "Haole" because that's gonna be the only people left that can afford. Don't even get me started on homeless Hawaiian statistics. KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS IN HAWAIIAN HANDS.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:51:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Balanay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Those in charge please pass this very important bill to help Hawaii's residents keep property in the hands of the locals instead of allowing foreigners to buy land out from us. This is the time to make this policy real and set up future generations for better prosperity. You have a chance to make history. Other countries do this so much better than we do. They protect their people and the limited resources from being pushed out of their homelands. This is a chance for the future. Please don't waste this opportunity to do the right thing for us and our future generations. With aloha and mahalo nun loa for being brave and facing the harsh truth and protect the future.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:53:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuha'o Regidor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617 in order to keep 'āina hawai'i with the hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:53:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Don Gorospe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Don Gorospe. I am 46 years old. I am born and raised here on Oahu. I am a flight attendant for Hawaiian Airlines. Me and wife purchased our first home in 2019. It was a very difficult time. We put in many offers for homes but were outbid on every single one to outsiders, investors, military and people who just make more money in the mainland. The only way we were able to purchase our home was writing a cover letter to the owner letting them know we are a local couple and haven't got any of offers accepted due to the higher bidders. The sellers as we all know here in Hawaii who these higher bidders are. They are mostly foreigners. So the sellers ended up supporting local and selling to us. If it was not for them, I don't know if we would ever be able to purchase a home here in our home if Hawaii. Please do something for the locals. The people who have been born and raised here. The ones who did not get an opportunity as my wife and I did. Please help out people stay in the there home of Hawaii. PLEASE HELP!!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:54:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsea Imose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kelsea Imose and I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB2617. As a Hawai'i local and Kānaka, I have seen the detrimental effects of foreigners buying up "seasonal" and "investment" properties in Hawai'i. Home prices have been driven up so far that local dual income households cannot afford to buy a single family home in our homelands. Most of my friends have been displaced and forced to live on the continent because of a lack of regulations placed upon who is able to buy and maintain property in Hawai'i. I hold a doctoral degree and cannot afford to buy a house...

I believe that having less foreigners own land will decrease the amount of AirBnbs and "vacation homes" (both of which remain empty for much of the year), therefore opening up more space and lowering housing prices for Hawai'i locals to have a chance to finally own a home without having to leave their home land.

I cannot see any downside to this bill, at least not for Hawai'i people. I hope that our legislature will fight for Hawai'i locals, and not for foreigners who only seek to profit off us and our land.

Respectfully,

Kelsea Imose

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:54:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaiah Fonoti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB 2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:55:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheldon Gilman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill,because as a young hawaiian born and raised here in Kailua, I've seen what damage foreigners do to your home .We needtoput a stop to this.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:55:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Ancheta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jason Ancheta. I would first like to say thank you for taking the time to listen to the voices of the local people. I can truly say that Hawai'i has changed a lot. It has lost its way!

My parents who worked hard to provide a roof over myself and my brother's head purchased their first home in 1997, and later helped my wife and I to purchase our home 7 years ago. We are very fortunate!

There are many families that are not as fortunate. What does that leave the local people who don't make nearly enough to live let alone to purchase a home? Once again, my family is very fortunate.

I am now at a crossroad in my life where I have a family of my own, and would love to be able to share that opportunity to help my child/children experience the joy that I grew up with growing in Hawai'i. Please, let me ask you how are we able to do that if we are priced out of our homes?

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:55:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
justice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill,

To not allow outsiders (non-Hawaii(an)) residents to purchase anymore native land or land belonging to the territory of Hawai'i to me means, more opportunities for the existing kanaka ma'oli to house their families, job opportunities, the ability for the state/ government of Hawai'i to fix or improve the current state of our people. Bringing in outsiders to take over and "own" more native land will not fix our problems existing already.

E mālama i nā 'āina Hawai'i ma, nā Lima Hawai'i!

E olā mau I ka po'e Hawai'i!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:55:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arlene Lani Larrua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill that is long overdue. The people who are born here are being pushed out because of inflated prices that have become unaffordable to the average working family. Please help our residents to shut the door on foreign purchases.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:56:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to stop sale of Hawaii homes and properties to foreign investors. We are loosing the aloha spirit and Hawaii culture because we are loosing the people who make it due to being bought out from rich foreign investors. If this continues we will loose the aloha spirit and Hawaii we all know and love. Please pass this bill in hopes to help the local families have a chance at staying in Hawaii.

Aloha,

James Nakamura

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:56:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paoneakai Lee-Namakaeha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am in support of 2617 SB RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

Housing prices in Hawaii increased largely last year, while the number of affordable units all but stagnated. One main factor for the rapid home value and rental price increases is the purchase of Hawaii real estate by private investment firms and particularly foreign non-residents. These buyers use real estate as an investment tool that rapidly drives up prices and prevents local residents from purchasing a home. Many of these buyers do not live in these homes and have no intention of renovating them but see them only as cash cows. They charge exorbitant rent, resale at ridiculous prices, and give very little back to the local economy.

The data is limited but indicates at least 15% of the houses in Hawaii in 2020-2023 were bought by investment firms and foreign non-residents. The actual percentage is probably much higher and maybe approaching 25% of real estate transactions in the state. Often the houses are older and are bought for cash. Many are suitable for first-time homebuyers who cannot compete for the rapidly increasing prices, but also include high-priced exclusive real estate. Many of these investment homes are not kept up to acceptable standards and yet residents are charged thousands of dollars per month in rent, if they are even lived in.

The state homelessness is increasing each year in Hawaii, but currently, there are no laws requiring information to even be collected pertaining to residency, citizenship, or country of origin of the home buyer. There is no limit on the number of transactions allowed by law in the state or in the country as a whole involving foreign nonresidents and large investment firms. Hawaii has one of the highest prices for rent and real estate in the country and also has the largest levels of income inequality. There is a direct correlation. The residents and taxpayers of this state are being ripped off and harmed while foreign nonresidents and investors buy up our neighborhoods and homes and give nothing in return except higher prices.

Our government and leaders need to 1) collect relevant data and 2) place limits on the number of investment firms and foreign non-residents buying real estate in Hawaii, effective immediately. 3) A moratorium on these types of transactions needs to be enacted immediately. 4) Rent control needs to be reconsidered to battle the exorbitant rental prices in Hawaii where these foreign nonresident and investor transactions occur most.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:57:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Ulu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill wholeheartedly! Hawai‘i needs Kanaka to remain here at home. We will not survive without one another. With that being said, it is merely impossible to compete with foreign buyers. We must look to our past for the answers to be sustainable here and now, as well as long when the future generations claim their roles. Please adhere to the fact that this bill alone could change the trajectory of how Kanaka survive in Hawai‘i. Make it possible! Be the change!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:57:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalamakuakahawaii Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kalamakuakahawaii Souza, I am a Hawai'i resident born and raised in Kailua on the island of Oahu. I am submitting my written testimony in support of SB2617 prohibiting foreigners from owning real property in Hawaii. As a native Hawaiian it is extremely concerning and worrisome to see the trend towards there being more native Hawaiians living outside of Hawaii than in it. Simply put, there is no Hawaii without Hawaiians. How can Hawaii market and sell aloha, pride itself on its natural beauty, yet not take steps to insure that the stewards of those very things are not given fair opportunities at owning property, continuing to live and thrive in their native birth lands. Make no mistake, the stewards I refer to are native Hawaiians. Not a day goes by that my kaumaha doesn't increase due to all the many ways that others interests are put before Hawaiian people. While this bill is not an answer to all the questions, it certainly is a step in the right direction. It will help aid in creating more opportunity for native Hawaiians to continue to thrive in their homeland, instead of being priced out and overtaken by foreign interests with deep pockets whom create an unfair completion. I humbly ask that my testimony be considered alongside what I no doubt believe will be countless others in support of this bill. Please do the right thing. Stand on the principles that we so willingly preach to the rest of the world. The spirit of aloha, a spirit born from Hawaii's ancestry, embued in the dna and fiber of its people. Know Hawaiians know Hawaii, no Hawaiians no Hawaii.

Mahalo a me ke aloha,

Kalamakuakahawaii Souza

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:58:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rochelle Midro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature,

Aloha. My name is Rochelle Kapuaokamakahikihou Midro, and I find myself compelled to reach out to you today, not just as a native of Wai‘anae, from Makaha to Nanakuli, but as a descendant of kānaka ‘ōiwi, deeply rooted in the lands and traditions of Hawai‘i. My family's lineage in Wai‘anae spans hundreds of years, and our heritage extends to the generations of Lo‘i Kalo farmers in Ke‘anae, Maui. This connection to the land, cultivated through summers spent learning the delicate art of Kalo farming from my grandparents, is a testament to the deep, spiritual bond we hold with our ‘āina.

However, it is with a heavy heart that I address the challenges our communities face today. The diversion of water for non-native benefits has led to the abandonment of our cherished lo‘i farms in Ke‘anae, a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities our people face. Similarly, the escalating cost of living and competitive job market throughout the Pae ‘Āina o Hawai‘i, have compelled many of our ‘ohana to leave their ancestral lands. This reality is a painful reflection of the broader issues that threaten the fabric of our culture and the sustainability of our lands.

I have been fortunate to receive a Hawaiian Homestead Leasehold, a blessing that has allowed me to remain here connected to my roots. Yet, this is a privilege few enjoy, leaving many in our community struggling to survive amidst the rising economic pressures. Our philosophy teaches us that we do not "own" the land; we are merely its stewards, responsible for protecting and nurturing the ‘āina (land), kānaka (people), and ‘akua (spiritual power). This understanding is at the core of our disagreement with the concept of land ownership by outsiders, which threatens the delicate balance that sustains the true beauty and spirit of Hawai‘i.

SB2617 is a crucial step towards preserving the essence of what makes Hawai‘i unique. By regulating the acquisition of real estate by foreign principals, this bill not only protects our economic interests but also safeguards our cultural heritage and the sustainability of our land. It ensures that those who wish to call Hawai‘i home understand and respect the kuleana they inherit with the land - to care for it and our people in a way that honors our ancestors and the teachings they have passed down through generations.

The challenges we face are not merely economic; they are deeply rooted in the preservation of our cultural identity and the legacy we leave for future generations. SB2617 provides a pathway

to address these challenges, ensuring that the growth and development of Hawai'i do not come at the cost of its soul.

I urge you to pass SB2617, not just for the well-being of Native Hawaiians but for the preservation of the true spirit of Aloha that defines our islands. Let us protect the beauty, culture, and future of Hawai'i together.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Together, we can make a difference.

With warmest aloha,

Rochelle Kapuaokamakahikihou Midro

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:58:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malika Nahina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill to help our local people remain local. As a parent and educator it is heartbreaking to tell our kids the harsh reality of just how difficult it will be for many to stay in Hawai'i as adults. A large percentage of my students have already told me that they plan to move away because Hawai'i is too expensive. Housing is the largest monthly expense for most families, and this is just the beginning of the work that must be done for the well-being of our community. We need to keep our families together so we don't fall apart.

Please help us.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:58:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ty Webb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have been in a house crisis for a very long time and having people who don't live here full time able to buy homes/land is just making it worse. Not to mention, those people are not contributing members of our communities. Most of the time they don't send their kids to public schools or get involved to see what our communities and people are all about.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:59:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Gestrch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ke aloha nui ia kakou a pau. O Jordan Phoenix Kamuela Gestrch ko'u inoa. He kupa no au no Kalihi. My native Hawaiian side comes from Ka'u on the Hawaii island. Four generations back from that side, my kupuna kane came from the Philippines and worked on a sugar cane plantation. My kupuna wahine, Grace Kanui Makalii, was a native Hawaiian from Ka'u. They did not have much, and could not leave much for the following generations.

In a day and age where anyone can have the right to move to any state of the US and possibly purchase land, it is an act of ignorance to bypass the history and the injustice that has occurred to the aboriginal/indigenous people of Hawaii. Our Queen was forced to give up her political and rightful position as queen, and chose to stand down, due to the violent pressure by the United States military and foreign entities that worked together to strip her of her power and position. This made way for her imprisonment, for the annexation of Hawaii by the US, the complete overhaul of a way of life for Native Hawaiians, the ban of Hawaiian language leading to its decline and near extinction from 1893 to the mid 1900s, which is tied to the loss of identity by Hawaiians and sense of pride in their homeland. This eventually led to many native Hawaiians buying into the US way of life, packing up, and moving to other states where cost of living was much cheaper.

To be a Hawaiian is not simply living in Hawaii, it is having a direct connection to the very creation of these islands and having thousands of years of history, in which we had a relationship with the land, its features and functions, its very makeup today, including place names and whatever history is known about it today is because of native Hawaiians who once lived on this land. Where Hawaii has headed since the late 1800s has been down a capitalist rabbit hole that benefits huge foreign investors and businessmen, and never has directly benefitted the native population. These business have provided jobs, however, it is of fact that the jobs have paid their workers an insufficient amount to afford to invest into property and longterm land ownership. The trend continues today.

If our lawmakers are for our people, they will recognize the people who have made Hawaii what it is today. Not those in this generation, but our kupuna, our ancestors. This is why we have the beloved Hawaiian culture - the luaus, the Hawaiian phrases, the words "aloha" and "mahalo" posted everywhere, etc. All of these characteristics of our culture that have been taken and used for marketing for the tourism industry, which have also been what has attracted many foreigners to Hawaii and wanting to call it home for themselves, yet being insensitive and ignorant to the people who are decendants of those that have called it home for many generations.

Due to the influence that the United States has had on Hawaii, beginning with the sugar industry, to military, to now an influx of foreign business, native Hawaiians have lost their sense of identity and are no longer educated of the excellence of their past. We have been forced to learn the ways of foreigners, within their educational system, and to put away the ways of our past. This has led to many Hawaiians that naturally have a tie to the land and all the types of connection that comes with it, to be displaced and lost in our minds and our souls. This has led to incarceration, drug addiction, moving away and not seeing the value in staying, and much more by the native Hawaiian population. Many who are not a part of this population may say, "Go to college, build your career, and then buy property." However, it is due to the history of foreign influence that I've previously mentioned, that has had a direct negative effect on our people because our lifestyles were never built around learning by sitting in a classroom then going to a corporate job, our lifestyles call for us to be on the land, working with soil, working with the many natural living things that make this "paradise."

Many of the beautiful natural features of these islands that our in our chants, our stories, our history, that our ancestors have talked about and cared for, are no longer here today because of buildings, businesses, military use, etc. and can no longer be brought back. These include fishponds, taro patches, medicinal gardens, lei gardens, historic sites, etc. that have been erased, that were once abundant resources of survival that didn't contribute to a negative carbon footprint, but was positive and a sustainable way of living. A circular economy that benefitted everyone in fair ways, not like the system that undercuts the lower income communities like today.

Many of those who want to purchase property, live here, do business here in Hawaii, have inherited assets and wealth from their families. Majority of Hawaiians never had the opportunity to inherit wealth, which was our fishponds, our springs, our taro patches, etc. These were not houses, businesses, or money. So now, we are forced into a system where we have to build from the ground up, when we have barely been given the tools to help us. Many Hawaiians in the 1900s were evicted off their lands, given nothing to survive, so that foreigners can build their communities, and so that the Hawaii State government, business people, and lawmakers could profit off of outsiders who could afford homes and property.

Therefore, I come with no sense of entitlement, but a sense of justice and wanting justice for our people who have endured enough. We as kanaka, native Hawaiians, need time to heal from the injustices and the trauma that we've endured and we ask that NO ONE TURN A BLIND EYE and call this false information, that we didn't experience these atrocities when foreigners wanted to come in and own land and property here in Hawaii, and not consider the people who were here first and made this place what it is. Today, we have Native Hawaiians who are esteemed and accomplished in many modern careers and have been doing their best to conform to this modern system, however, there are many of us who need time, who want our land back, who want to live similarly to our ancestors, and couldn't care less about the money, but want to simply live in our homelands, to eat from our land, to drink from our waters, to continue the legacy that our ancestors passed on to us.

Please consider these words, this heart, this kuleana (responsibility) I carry to my people and this land, which is in need of plenty aloha and care. I am a teacher, a farmer, a son, a brother, a

student. My job as an educator and parttime caretaker of land does not earn me enough money to own property here and I have not inherited anything as far as property or business. However, I would like the opportunity to be there someday for me, for my future children, and for other Hawaiians to "own" property. At the end of the day to a kanaka, we never own anything in life, "ownership" and purchase of property is a foreign concept, however, if that's the way the game is played, I'd like to have the opportunity to own a house, to own property, to have land to farm on and feed my family for generations to come. Please consider passing this bill - 2617 SB RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY, as I believe it will be the right move to impact Hawaiians in a positive way after many years of negative impact. It will be a great way to be remembered in history, as one who helped Hawaiians stay in their homeland by inhibiting the acquisition of land by foreign and outside entities. Mahalo nui, ke aloha nui.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:59:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsa Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for BILL 2617, which seeks to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in our beloved state of Hawaii, except for de minimus indirect interests. As a native Hawaiian who has witnessed firsthand the challenges our community faces in securing affordable housing, I believe that this bill is a crucial step toward ensuring that our people have a fair opportunity to live and thrive in our ancestral homeland.

For generations, native Hawaiians have struggled to maintain a connection to our land and culture as the cost of housing has skyrocketed, pushing many of our community members out of Hawaii and into other states. The limited availability of affordable housing has had a devastating impact on our culture and communities. It is disheartening to see the very land that holds our history and heritage being sold to foreign entities, exacerbating the housing crisis that disproportionately affects our people.

BILL 2617 represents an opportunity to address this pressing issue. By restricting the acquisition of real property by foreign principals, we can prioritize the well-being and housing needs of our local communities. It is my belief that this bill is a critical step in ensuring that native Hawaiians, who have a deep cultural and historical connection to this land, can remain here and access affordable housing.

This bill acknowledges the importance of preserving the unique identity and culture of Hawaii by placing the needs of our own people at the forefront. It offers a chance for native Hawaiians and local residents to have greater access to housing and puts a halt to the dispossession of our land.

I understand that Hawaii's economy benefits from tourism and foreign investments, but it should not come at the expense of displacing our own people and eroding the essence of our island state. This bill strikes a balance between economic interests and the well-being of our communities.

I respectfully request that you consider the long-term consequences of selling land to foreign entities while our own people struggle to find affordable housing. I urge you to support BILL 2617, a bill that seeks to protect the interests and well-being of native Hawaiians and local residents who have called this place home for generations.

Mahalo nui loa for your attention to this important matter, and I hope you will consider the positive impact that BILL 2617 can have on the future of Hawaii.

Aloha,

Chelsa Davis

mother, small business owner and native hawaiian

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:59:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
josh chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Bill SB2617. With this Bill hopefully people who have been born and raised here in Hawaii will now have a better chance to live here and raise future generations.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:00:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pi'iali'i Lawson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. The People of Hawai'i, Locals and Native Hawaiians should always be #1 priority.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:00:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaunarae Soares	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am born and raised here on the island of O'ahu. I have seen many of my family and friends struggle to make a living, own a home, or even find a place to rent. The choices we have been left with are unsettling. I have witnessed so many move to the states, leaving family behind, due to their inability to survive here. I, myself have struggled, all the while being fortunate enough to have a "good paying job". It's never enough to keep up with ever growing lack of leadership to support and protect the people of Hawai'i from falling victim to this housing crisis. We are blessed to have been able to purchase a home 2 years ago, but we have only been able to do so by living in a multi generational home. It would have been IMPOSSIBLE to do it on our own. Hawai'i needs to do better. This is the time to protect our beloved people of Hawai'i. The people are what make Hawai'i, Hawai'i. If we continue to allow foreigners to continue to purchase land/property without any restrictions, Hawai'i will be no longer. I am in full support of this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:01:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Daraban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha ,

I am in great support of this Bill. People of Hawai'i need great relief to not jut live but thrive. This is fully within the State of Hawai'i's constitutional rights to deny any foreign agent or person to purchase lands.

When will our state truly start doing things for the betterment of Hawai'i not to fill their greedy pockets or get money for their campaign.

We the people of Hawai'i are desperate to have the pressure value released and this would be a great step towards that.

I humbly ask that you fully support this decision.

Mahalo,

Malia Daraban

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:01:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cookie Akau-Gaspar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:02:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ian McCaulley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii has a housing crisis. Myself and the rest of my peers are not able to buy a house due to the insane costs of them. I am 37 years old and believe that foreign investors should not be able to buy real estate in Hawaii. The people of Hawaii should come first!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:02:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should be prioritizing residents who have been here to be able to stay here. Why are we accomodating to foreigners before our own people? I have way too many friends who have been priced out, I want to be able to start my family here without worrying about being outbought by someone not even living here.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:02:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to keep our lands for the locals and Kama'aina of Hawai'i as we are already running out of real estate as the islands can only handle so much.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:02:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Ayau Dumlao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii government should not allow foreigners to buy property in Hawaii. Many Native Hawaiians are priced out of Hawaii because they can not afford to live here because of foreigners who buy property. Hawaii property should only be purchased by Hawaii residents.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:03:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miki?ala Leslie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of the long overdue bill. The name says it all, I fully believe that this bill can be not only put into action but actually be good for the people of Hawai'i. As a Native Hawaiian this bill moving forward would mean the state of Hawai'i would be securing what little we have left for remaining generations. I am a Native Hawaiian that has been "priced out of paradise", something I never wanted to do but as a single individual and working three jobs it wasn't enough. Foreign buyers flipping properties and houses to maximize the profit is killing the people of Hawai'i. The housing market is no longer sustainable, renting is no longer sustainable, and furthermore buying a home is no longer achievable. This bill needs to be attempted in the least, it needs to be given an opportunity to create a better living situation for all the people in Hawai'i. Please, please send this bill through.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:03:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Echiverri	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stop letting foreigners buy and own property in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:03:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amaris Peneku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian it is nearly impossible to purchase and own land, on our own indigenous ‘āina. This is due to numerous reasons, however the biggest hindrance is because we are unable to compete with the foreign and wealthy. This is hewa, we as the native people of these lands should be given a fighting chance to own, live, and thrive here. Myself and my ‘ohana, wholeheartedly support this bill and what it could do not just for our ‘ohana, but the countless others hoping to remain here in our islands. Please approve this bill so that we, the Native Hawaiians, can stay within our lands and raise our keiki where we have for generations. This is the start to our people rebuilding our people, language, and culture. This is a stepping stone for Native Hawaiians and for other indigenous peoples facing the same hardships.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:04:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Napua-kuuipo Aumua-yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are being priced out of a place we grew up in, a place where our families have grew up for hundreds of years. We have more Hawaiians living outside of hawai'i than in hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:04:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keomailani Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a 37-year-old Maui native and Native Hawaiian woman whose done everything right - I graduated from college with two degrees (B.A. Psychology & Master's of Indigenous Studies), I worked hard (usually at 2 jobs, but always 1 full-time career since I was 21-years old). I paid my taxes, bills and student loan bills on time. I got myself a great full-time career at Hawaiian Airlines, waited late in life to have children (I am currently pregnant with my first child), all the while trying to secure a property here on the island that I was born and raised. My husband and I have great full-time careers, no children, and STILL cannot afford to purchase a house in our own homeland. All the while there are numerous out-of-state and foreign buyers who have bought multiple properties for short-term rentals, vacation homes, and to build their real estate portfolio. The Maui Wildfires have only excacerbated the housing problem here on Maui. There are less opportunities for home ownership, and rentals prices have sky rocketed. There is and has always been a housing crisis. Now more than ever, the State of Hawai'i and lawmakers need to create barriers for foreign buyers and help prop up local home ownership.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:04:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauaeliilii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands"

im sure you heard this quote before and you will continue to hear it from the people of Hawai'i until our land and water are returned to the rightful people of the Hawaiian Nation. My name is Laua'e Lind and I speak for myself and my 'ohana who are in full support of this bill. I'm 23 years old and I currently live in the small, remote town of Hana, Maui. Over the past 10 or so years I have seen more "private property" signs popping up in places where my kupuna used to practice their cultural gathering rights to feed our families and put food on our table. Everyday us Hawaiians struggle to make a living, pay our mortgage and our land taxes, you name it. It is not fair that foreign companies with deep pockets can just fly into Hawaii and buy up all our land and then tell us we don't belong here. Where else are we supposed to go? Enough is enough and this bill needs to be pushed through. Thank you

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:05:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaylor Bishaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill, this will change the course of Hawai'i and Hawaiians here in the islands

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:05:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill! Too many of us are forced to move from our home because the cost of housing is high. Many of us cannot compete with foreign investors who come and pay above asking prices in cash. We have families here, who want to stay, that cannot afford to. We have families here, who need housing, who get displaced by the highest bidder. We, the people of Hawai'i, need to help our own.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:05:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Au	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as we already have a very limited supply of homes. Most times foreign buyers are buying homes/land above asking price and with cash. No one benefits from this. They are not using our local banks or lenders for financing, and they are driving up the median price of a home in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:07:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cari Sasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are being priced out of our home, our Hawai'i. The price of land is being driven up by foreign buyers. If we allow this to continue, local people and native Hawaiians will be forced to move to the mainland in order to afford to live. Hawai'i will lose its identity and culture that sets it apart.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:08:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:09:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamailelauli'i Peneku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian it is nearly impossible to purchase and own land, on our own indigenous 'āina. This is due to numerous reasons, however the biggest hindrance is because we are unable to compete with the foreign and wealthy. This is hewa, we as the native people of these lands should be given a fighting chance to own, live, and thrive here. Myself and my 'ohana, wholeheartedly support this bill and what it could do not just for our 'ohana, but the countless others hoping to remain here in our islands. Please approve this bill so that we, the Native Hawaiians, can stay within our lands and raise our keiki where we have for generations. This is the start to our people rebuilding our people, language, and culture. This is a stepping stone for Native Hawaiians and for other indigenous peoples facing the same hardships.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:09:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Skye Ombac	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was born and raised in Hawai'i and am now a 27 year old teacher. I have no chance in ever having a home or place of my own in the place where I call home. Instead, I am paying a foreigners mortgage and helping them live a better life with what I pay for rent. I have two roommates because I cannot afford to live alone on a teacher salary. I love my job and I love Hawai'i but foreigners are stealing our land. I hope one day I am able to own a home but I cannot see that happening without change on the government level. Our system is broken and needs change and I believe this will be a step in the right direction. I hope our leaders can help locals stay in the place where we call home.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:09:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hiilani Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Mai,

Nō nā hanauna e hiki mai ‘ana, e ho‘okū i ke kū‘ai aku ana i ko kākou ‘Āina i na kānaka o ka ‘āina ē!! Please stop the selling of our Aina, buildings, home to foreigners!! This is not right!! Hawai‘i is not Hawai‘i without its people and Hawai‘i people are having to leave because of the selling of our land, and the fact that we don't have a chance to purchase homes on our own land. STOP this nonsense! It isn't fair, it isn't right!! Mahalo!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:10:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
aysha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as it has definitely been long overdue. Help Kanaka buy land by making it harder for those who do not live here purchase. Give the opportunities back to kanaka. Help us make it possible to live where we belong. Kanaka need this. Help us move this bill forward!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:10:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheadon Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a kanaka born and raised here in Hawai‘i, it pains me to constantly see ‘āina being bought and sold to those who are not of this ‘āina. I humbly and deeply urge you to support this bill in hopes of retaining our lands and ensuring that the longevity of land stewardship remains in those that are kama‘āina to our customs/culture. Let us follow in our cousins in Aotearoa and promote this bill in hopes of creating a Hawaiian version of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Me ke aloha pumehana iā ‘oukou!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:10:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Supriya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's long overdue, there is a housing crisis here and allowing foreigners to continue to own and buy property only perpetuates it.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:10:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

AS A NATIVE HAWAIIAN BORN AND RAISED IN WAIMANALO I SUPPORT THIS BILL IT IS HARD ENOUGH TO WATCH FAMILY'S STRUGGLE TO LIVE DAY TO DAY OR EAT IT'S HARDER TO WATCH MEGA HOUSES BE BUIT AND WATCH THE PROPERTY TAXES RISE LEAVING MORE FAMILY'S TO BE HOMELESS IT IS TIME FOR OUR GOVERNMENT TO THINK ABOUT ITS PEOPLE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:10:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ko'uipo Aumua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting Bill SB2617 is supporting all my 'ohana and our future.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:10:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Drury	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:10:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimana Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of Hawaii's 2617 SB:

As a resident of Hawaii deeply committed to preserving the cultural and environmental integrity of our beautiful islands, I wholeheartedly support SB 2617.

Our lands are not commodities to be bought and sold to the highest bidder. They are sacred spaces that hold deep cultural significance for native Hawaiians and serve as vital ecosystems that sustain our unique flora and fauna. Allowing unrestricted foreign ownership threatens to undermine the very essence of what makes Hawaii special and jeopardizes the well-being of our communities.

By enacting SB 2617, we take a proactive stance in safeguarding Hawaii's heritage and ensuring that our lands remain in the hands of those who cherish and understand their importance. This legislation is not about isolationism; it's about preserving the balance between progress and preservation, between development and conservation.

Furthermore, SB 2617 aligns with the principles of self-determination and sovereignty for native Hawaiians. It recognizes their inherent rights to stewardship over their ancestral lands and empowers them to shape the future of Hawaii in a manner that honors their traditions and values.

In addition to cultural considerations, restricting foreign ownership also addresses concerns related to housing affordability and economic equity. As foreign investment drives up real estate prices, it becomes increasingly challenging for local residents to afford homes in their own communities. SB 2617 helps level the playing field, ensuring that housing remains accessible to those who call Hawaii home.

In conclusion, I urge lawmakers to support SB 2617 as a vital step towards protecting Hawaiian lands and promoting sustainable development practices. Let us stand together to keep Hawaii's future in Hawaiian hands, safeguarding our heritage for generations to come. Mahalo nui loa for your attention to this critical issue.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:11:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoki Nahina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2617 prohibiting foreigners from buying property.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:11:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pono Kaeo-Okimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i is closed! No more foreign land purchases. Malama our Hawai'i natives and locals. I fully support BILL SB2617! Please take care of the people of Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:11:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sash Fitzsimmons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill,

We need to stop foreign ownership of Hawaiian lands.

Too many Hawaiian residents are leaving our state because land ownership is too expensive. Our average salaries cannot afford an average priced home.

Mahalo,

Sash Kau'i Fitzsimmons

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:12:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah foti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Since I have been born our population has more than doubled, and many locals have moved away. As we loose our people to foreigners we loose our way of life and the things that make Hawaii special.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:12:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
maya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is long overdue. As a teacher in Hawaii who cannot afford housing to stay, this bill would be a start to securing more housing to those who are actually part of the community. Contributing members of a society deserve to be treated with respect and with the ability to afford to live where they serve their community.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:13:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Bryant	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our family supports this bill whole heartedly. We have seen our land taken for too long. My father in law fought until the day he died for land that was taken from his family by foreigners (white man). We feel that many Native Hawaiian people are being displaced due to the amount of foreign investors buying land/property. We don't have a housing issue. We have plenty of houses on the island. What we have is a foreign investor problem. If we keep selling land or property to foreigners, Native Hawaiian people will not only be homeless, but we will be resourceless. Our island is too small to sustain the amount of people that are living on it. We will run out of natural resources. When there are disasters on the island, it's scary to see how cutthroat people get to make sure they have the resources they need to survive. Our ancestors knew how to live sustainably. The ahupua`a provided all they needed to live. They bartered goods and services. They lived peacefully as a community. If our island continues to be overpopulated by foreigners, we will move further and further away from the way of our ancestors. Please think of the people and not of the money. Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:13:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brycen Gathers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Kanaka oiwi I support this bill. There should be absolutely no reason that more foreigners the land and homes that belong to our people. Looking at the statistics today, it is obvious that the reason that there are more foreigners who own land and property than kanaka in Hawai'i is because we're being out priced in our own land! Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:14:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naihe Paikai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Allowing foreigners to buy land/property in Hawai'i is taking away homes that can be purchased by locals. It is also driving the housing market up to an already expensive state (cost of living). Locals are competing with these foreign buyers, who in exchange are flipping it into a vacation home, renting it out & not even occupying it. If we can't ban foreign purchase of land/property then we should at least make it harder by implementing purchase requirements? Some suggestions 1) Being a resident for at least a year or more prior to purchasing 2) Live in the property for 1 or more years before renting out. These are just suggestions if full banning isn't passed. It's not about keeping foreigners out it's about keeping kamaaina HOME. SOMETHING must be done.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:14:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Smith Pamela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel this bill is smart for Hawaii.
We have too many foreign owners that are not residents, or are renting them illegally without recourse- while taking them away from natives.
These properties need to be available (affordably) for locals.
Thank you!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:15:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hulali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because I am a Hawaiian and I truly believe NON Hawaiian people should be able to purchase Hawaiian land. Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:15:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Braden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of this bill and the necessary steps required to put this bill in stone. There are too many Instances where outsiders that are able to build capitol in areas where real estate is relatively static contrary to that of the place we live in; not contributing to our economy and after moving here rent a house or make an air B & B. Wages in other places follow the trends of cost of living in every major city but do not follow here In Hawai'i. Outsiders drive the high cost of living even further and with the restrictions on foreigners buying property it reduces the field of exploitation on Hawaiian lands.

mahalo,

Braden Akima

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:15:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Pfund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. This current system is not working for the Hawaiians, or the people who live and work here. It's time to prioritize and protect those who live here and contribute to the community.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:16:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shauna Russell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Shauna Russell, I am a native Hawaiian and I was born and raised on the island of Maui. I've never before submitted testimony in support or against any legislature being proposed. I guess maybe I felt that my voice nor my opinion would ever make a difference at any level of government. In this case, that still may be true but this time I feel the need to speak up regardless.

My whole life I've done everything I was supposed to do. I went to school, got good grades, went to college, went to graduate school and eventually got my Doctor of Physical Therapy degree all with the hopes of returning home to treat MY people. I returned home to Maui to move in with my parents for the first time in over 10 years seemingly for a short term. Quickly I realized that I either was going to live with my parents and my 6 month old son, find my own place that requires two paychecks a month to afford with little to spare, or look outside of Maui for something more affordable. This was in 2009, 15 years ago!

I currently live in Hilo, HI with my son because way back when, this was the cheapest place to live. Since moving here I've watched numerous properties and commercial buildings be taken over by people who have never called these lands home. There are hard working people, Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians who were born and raised in these lands that, like me cannot afford to buy any property for ourselves. These days, there are places in Hilo that are even renting homes for over \$2000! This is ridiculous.

I am in support of this bill in order to prevent our people from leaving their home lands. Years ago, I had to leave Maui and even now, as a Doctor of Physical Therapy and owner of Big Island PT, I know I could never afford to return. I want more for my son and our young people. I want them to become contributing members of this world and come back to a community they recognize not struggle to make ends meet in a world of strangers.

We, our people, deserve better.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:17:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dustin K Paradis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the strict regulation of property sales in Hawai'i to allow US enterprise to thrive and not be displaced by foreign investors

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:17:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ChristineMarie Latuselu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:18:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nahinalani Nature	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Nahina, I am about to be 23 years old and as the years go by the idea of owning a home in Hawaii is becoming more unrealistic. A lot of my family has moved from Oahu to Hawaii Island because it seems to be the only island you can find a decent home under 1 million. Locals can not compete with outside buyers and I hope with this bill we can put local land back in locals' hands!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:18:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keli'i Ioane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

As a life long resident of this state it has pained me greatly to witness the continued destruction of natural resources, and overcrowding of our limited space that is driven by the real estate industry. In this modern age of sustainability understanding, and in a place where resources and space are extremely limited it baffles me that the state legislature is still hesitant to protect its residents from foreign pressures.

It is for these reasons that I strongly support SB2617.

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:18:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerald Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko'o au i kēia pila.

Ua mau ke 'ea o ka 'āina i ka pono.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:19:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laamea Hoopii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is La'amea Ho'opi'i. I am a native Hawaiian born and raised on the east side of the island of O'ahu. I am writing in support of SB617. I am writing in a desperate attempt to give my keiki a better chance to some day raise their own families in this place that I, and the generations before me, have been blessed to call home. Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:21:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tia odoardi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For once, Hawaiian needs should come first. We all have family/friends who have had to move because they can't afford to live here. I'm 26 and have dealt with the fact I (a Native Hawaiian) will more than likely never be able to afford a home here. Tired of businessmen see Hawaii as nothing but a product.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:21:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Hao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support any and all measures which limit the purchasing of Hawaiian land. As kanaka maoli, it pains me to see that more and more of our people have lost their lands and investors swoop in to take advantage pushing prices and land taxes higher.

I believe that before people are allowed to purchase land they must establish citizenship and residency of at least 7 years. Our land is the most precious resource we have, and it should be reserved for kanaka maoli first, and locals second.

Mahalo,

joe

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:21:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ke'oli Park	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider prohibiting foreigners from being able to continue to purchase our land and limit the housing needs of people in Hawaii. Lahaina's fires and the housing crisis that existed prior to the fire should be an eye opener to all legislators that we are beyond a state of a housing crisis.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:22:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trajan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Land should be for the people that plan to prosper the people of hawaii. Too many foreigners dictate what happens to the lands they have no connection to.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:22:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherri-Anne Kamaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. Our lāhui and kanaka ma'oli and kupuna 'oiwi should have priority!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:23:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Just wanted to support this bill, we need to take drastic measures to give our kids a chance to stay in their homeland. We are not just some state in the United States, we are a dying culture desperately trying to hold onto our individuality.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:23:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2617 in the name of our future generations so they will be able to live and thrive and own land where we've been born and raised and not have to move away.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:23:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keisha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In God's name I pray they support this bill. It's time we focus more on our people and what keeps Hawaii, Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:23:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
micah curimao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Micah Christopher Kealoha Villiarimo Curimao is against foreigners buying land or properties in Hawaii

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:25:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill on banning the sale of our land to foreigners.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:25:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kaliki unga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and encourage all the legislators to do so as well.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:25:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tori Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it is one of the first steps to allowing Hawaiian people return to their rightful home. It is wrong that Hawaiians can't afford to live in their homeland. Hawaiians have to work twice as hard to simply exist here in Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:26:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexia Kenney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Alexia Kenney. I grew up in Kapahi, Kaua'i on a property my family is blessed to have in our possession due to the generations that came before. For years this property has allowed us to feed, house, and support our surrounding ohana. These experiences have given me more than enough cause to support bill SB2617.

Testimonies such as this one can be seen all over Hawai'i. Properties not in the possession of foreign principals are - more often than not - utilized to uplift the surrounding communities in sustainable and environmentally conscious ways. Utilized not with greed and egotistical behaviors at the epicenter of their actions, but instead with true aloha and mindfulness of their community at large.

Mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony. I urge you to keep the younger generations of native Hawaiians in mind when making your decision. Please have faith in us to nurture Hawai'i and ensure it's beauty and spirit for years to come.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:26:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapono Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This has been something that the people of Hawaii have been trying to do for a long time. The amount of space is dwindling. It's very hard for our people now to get homes. Locals should be able to live in the place they were born and raised. Not priced out of paradise. I fully support this bill and I hope this will contribute to getting affordable homes in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:28:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleialoha Block	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kaleialoha Block, I am born and raise on the island of Hawai'i and currently reside on Oahu. This bill can have the potential of saving my family and other kamaaina of future relocation. Ever since I was a little girl I knew I belonged here. My blood line goes back many many many generations, Hawaii is where I belong and where all Hawaiians belong. I grew watching my father struggle to find land to raise us on, struggle to keep up with the foreigners buying up generational land making our economy sky rocket. Family's all over Hawaii are being displaced practically forced to move so foreigners can enjoy our land and live their "forever vacation". Now since I have grown, it has become my problem. I am shook to my core, working my best, my hardest to be able to live somewhere my blood line has been for hundreds of years. Where I feel safe, where I have an unexplainable bond that only kamaaina understand. I want to raise my Hawaiian children where their roots have formed. I don't know how to live anywhere else, Hawaii is my only option it is where I belong. Houses and land being scooped up by people that don't have blood here, that was not born and raised here just because they can afford the sky rocketing prices is unethical. What's happening in Hawaii is a disgrace we as Hawaiian's, as locals feel disrespected, thousands of natives are being forced to move else where because Hawaii is becoming unattainable to because of the lack of laws protecting us. If we don't make a change there will be no Hawaiian left in Hawaii, if Hawaiians are not here there is no Hawaii, it will be ruined never the same. Not passing this bill will forever change native Hawaiian lives our history will slowly become erased all because foreigners love pretty water and hate winters. Not because of there heritage or love for this land because of greed and lack of respect for the people that make Hawaii,Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:29:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support prohibition of foreigners buying real estate in Hawai'i. Hawai'i residents should be first priority on purchasing real estate due to the current lack of affordable housing, long term investment and interest in the best decisions for other Hawai'i residents and the future generations.

please vote to restrict foreigners from buying land in Hawai'i nei.

mahalo,

Susan n. Ching Harbin

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:29:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Ann Chaney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am 40 years old, born and raised in Hawaii, been working at a very good city job for over 15 years... And I still can't afford a home in Hawaii! This is not pono! Something needs to be done right now!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:29:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Tachera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Members of the Legislative committee,

My name is Naomi Tachera, I am a Native Hawaiian and a lifelong resident of Hawai'i. I would like to express my strong support for the Measure titled "RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY," which seeks to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in our state, except in minimal indirect circumstances.

Our islands are more than just a place to live; they are the embodiment of our culture, history, and the spirit of 'ohana that connects all of us. The increasing acquisition of real property by foreign principals threatens the very fabric of our communities, driving up property values to the point where our keiki (children) and future generations may find it impossible to afford homes on their ancestral lands.

This measure is a step toward preserving the integrity of our land and ensuring that the interests of Native Hawaiians and local residents are protected above those of outside investors. By restricting foreign ownership, we can work towards a sustainable future where our lands are preserved for agricultural, cultural, and residential purposes that align with our values and traditions.

I firmly believe that the long-term benefits of this measure, in terms of cultural preservation and economic stability for Native Hawaiians and local residents, far outweigh the initial financial considerations.

I urge you to support this measure, which represents a significant step towards protecting our land and ensuring that the heart of Hawaii remains in the hands of those who cherish and respect it the most.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Naomi Tachera

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:29:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenna Oda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am in strong support of this bill. Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:30:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Kahookaulana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

Aloha! I am a Native Hawaiian, born and raised on the Big Island of Hawaii. These lands, from Kauai to the Big Island should be kept in locals' hands. Buyers from outside of the state have always been trying and getting lands that they do not deserve. Foreigners do not know the value, they only know the monetary value. These lands should be sold to locals because we know what it takes to care for the land, above any monetary value.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:31:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sharon muraco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I am for this Bill. Being a local for generations I have watched our neighborhood change dramatically. Homes and land purchased by rich foreigners and mainlanders and renting as vacation rentals. My children are both college educated with good jobs, however, they can no longer have the dream of living in Hawaii. Our island has been sold out. Return

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:31:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahaina Olsen-Kuroda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is long overdue. Too many native Hawaiians and locals a like are being priced out of paradise everyday. I agree with this bill 100%. Stop talking about it and start doing something about it.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:31:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Toro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pass this bill. I am in favor of it.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:32:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Passion Uipi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I stand in support of SB2617.

The price of housing continues to increase, pricing many of our local families out of Hawaii. I believe this is a step in the right direction to lower the demand for housing in Hawaii, helping to decrease the price of homes, making it more affordable for local families to purchase a home and stay in Hawaii.

I applaud the authors and introducers of this bill for taking steps in the right direction to improve the housing market and make it affordable once again for local residents.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:32:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Mosk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Agree

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:33:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chynna Higashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am fully supportive of this bill and believe that it should be passed. While property is an asset it is important that it be treated as a home first. Space on our island is limited and I believe that what is available should be used for the benefit of our people.

Thank you.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:33:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tatiana Anguay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Tatiana Anguay and I am a resident of the state of Hawaii located on the island of Maui. I support this bill because it will allow us as well as the future generations of Hawaii to one day own a home in the State and island they grew up on. As a 33 year old mother I struggle daily for housing as the housing prices are too high and no homes on the market as foreign non-hawaii resedents start moving into our housing market. I cannot compete with the easy cash payments or great credit for these foreign companies and peoples. Please allow our future generations to grow up in Hawaii with a future they can look forward too. Me ke aloha nui.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:33:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle maser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

after living her since 1995 I strongly feel that only Hawaiians or ten year plus local residents should be able to buy property in Hawaii. I also believe any buyer should have to take a college level Hawaiian studies, course and Pass. This bill is a step in the right direction. Please protect this magical place by not letting foreign buyers buy up the land that locals so Desperately need.

thank you for your time.

Gabrielle Maser

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:34:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill sb2617 as a citizen and native Hawaiian. Foreigners should be prevented from purchasing lands in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:35:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:35:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alicia 'Ilikea Kam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alicia 'Ilikea Kam. I reside in Kona, Hawai'i and I support this bill. I am a professional with a master's degree in education. My husband is also a professional and with our income combined we still struggle to make ends meet for our family of five. Living in Kona where there is a large population of "snowbirds" doesn't make it any easier. The only way we could afford property would be to buy in another district and drive 1-2 hours to work daily which will not work for our family.

I am emailing in support of SB2617. Mahalo palena 'ole for passing this crucial bill during the first reading & hearing.

It is of the utmost importance that this bill continue for the future generations of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your understanding and support!

Na'u me ke aloha,

--

Alicia M 'Ilikea Kam

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:36:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kala'i Ahlo-Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i needs to hold on to what little culture it has left—this starts with its residents. Stop the sale to foreigners so people who belong here can actually live here. People who cherish the land and give it the respect it deserves, not people who are in it purely for profit. We need local families to stay here and grow their families here. I am in support of this bill so that those very things can be accomplished, especially before there is nothing left.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:36:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehau Akau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support - keep Hawaiian lands in the hands of our people who live and work and pay taxes here

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:37:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reyn oshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly support this bill it is long overdue. Being born and raised on the island of oahu it's sad to see all our traditions diminish because forei are buying up realestate which drives cost up for locals. Locals have given up this bill will go live hope and preserve our culture to pass down to future generations

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:37:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Loughran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian descendant, I strongly support this bill in hopes my family and I will be able to afford a home in Hawaii where our roots run deep. Please consider giving Hawaii back to the Hawaiian people.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:38:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan Ventura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill. Thank you!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:38:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisa Furtado-Fischer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:38:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Domingcil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian who is unable to inherit my family home on Hawaiian Home Land I am in a very difficult position where I may no longer be able to stay on my home island and help care for my community. I am a Nurse Practitioner and my husband is a firefighter. With our combined salaries we do not qualify for any assistance to buy a home. Unfortunately, we are unable to compete in today's real estate market and are unlikely to be able to buy a home in Hawaii. My husband and I want to serve the community we live in, but if we are unable to buy a home we will likely be moving out of the state.

This bill may give us a little bit more of a fighting chance to stay home and continue to serve our community. We are optimistic that we will eventually be able to own a home in Hawaii and that our children will be able to have a place that they can call home in the future.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:39:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaiah Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Since Hawaiians can't get Land from DHHL this is the next best option. KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS IN HAWAIIAN HANDS!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:39:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Damon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly agree that this should be passed, because is Kanaka Maoli for too long have been violated of our 'āina rights. We need to stop the foreigners from buying land so that we the kanaka Maoli and our keiki may continue to live in our homeland Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:39:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am in strong support of this bill. I do not believe that foreign investors should be allowed to purchase lands here in our state. This bill is important to keep our lands in the hands of the local people.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:40:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
elaina tavares	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I work for a company that provides internet service in people's homes I deal with a lot of local and foreigner people. To see the amount of foreigners that come in to just get internet service for their home that they only using temporarily while their here for winter season then canceling to go back home is sad. We have so much local family's that are having to leave because there is no affordable homes for them.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:40:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamauliola Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Lahaina, Maui and I support this bill because I want to be able to buy a home here on the island that I was born and raised on. Where my family has been born and raised for generations. I'm tired of seeing foreigners move here and take our homes away with no regards to our people. Let the residents of Hawaii, especially the ones that have been here for generations, move into a home here in Hawaii without the prices sky rocketing, without having to work 3 jobs just to make it by. For once, do right by the people of Hawaii and give us our land back, our homes back so that we may raise our family in the place we know and love.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:40:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jesse white	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:40:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamanao'i'o Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Am In Support Of Bill SB2617. The Only People Who'd Oppose This Bill Is People Who Profit Off Of Selling All Forms Of Real Estate To Foreign Investors. The Focus Should Be On Affordable Housing For Local People Not Affordable To Affluent Foreigners.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:41:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe Hawai'i should not have to be ordered to give any land to people who aren't them. Other foreigners won't know how to protect the sacred land and care for it the way it needs to be.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:42:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I as a Hawaiian, born and raised here, object to the selling of our land to foreign investors. This is Hawai'i. Our children are leaving our island home because it's unaffordable for us. Why would you not make their home land affordable to them instead of selling our land and culture to foreign entities that don't care about anything else but money . We love our land and if it is owned by foreign entities, our Hawaiian /local people will be bought out of our homes and the islands we love We will be displaced as a people. Do not pass this bill Save our aina ! Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:42:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac blanchard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family and I here on the big island are in support of the bill. We ask that you pass this bill.

Isaac Blanchard

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:43:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taniasha Lemusu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Taniasha Lemusu. I am a kanaka Maoli and I support this bill, SB2617.

I am a native of Laie, Hawaii and I am another statistic of native Hawaiians moving off island because we were priced out of paradise. It is not fair to me, my family, and my ancestors that we are being priced out and foreigners are coming in and using our land to make money for themselves. And disregarding our Hawaiian culture as a whole. This needs to stop and I support this bill 100000%.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:43:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoë	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to stop allowing foreigners from purchasing land. The people of Hawaii are being priced out of our homes and our children will never be able to afford to stay home.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:44:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Armando Molina	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I am against outsiders, buying our land it should only be for Hawaiians

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:44:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeline Anzivino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Foreign land-owners and buyers, for decades now, have been driving up the cost of real-estate, making buying a home for locals nearly impossible with an average salary that is not able to compete with a foreign salary. Hawai'i is not for sale and let's make that our motive.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:44:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lianne Jernigan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The attorney General's office say that it is unconstitutional but passed in other states. You folks not thinking about us in Hawaii. All of us Locals is getting pushed out because the high cost of living. Nothing is done about that either and you wanna support selling our limited resources here? For what? When are you folks going to start thinking about us and putting us first!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:44:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonny Kaheaku-Mahoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:46:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Toni watanuki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want this bill passed because I am born and raised on oahu. This isn't just for the generations of families before mine who still can't afford to buy a home and/or have been kicked out of their own. This is also for my generation and more to come, to move in a direction where one day we may be able to afford land and housing again. Where we can look forward to a day where we won't be bought out by a foreigner

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:46:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Green-Matutino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha i am writing this today in support of this bill for many years we have seen family & Friends leave our island's, all because of over priced housing due to foreign buyers building to expensive houses, and out bidding our native people. We need the support of our so called government officials that say they care our our people, and yet none has shown up until now thank you Brenton for trying to be the voice of our people. My family and I have contemplated many times about moving due to being out bid by foreigners, but we feel we should never give up, our kids deserve to live and own property in our Hawaii. So come on officials do right by your people for once and let's make Hawaii right again one step at a time aloha.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:46:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Chu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the bill aimed at restricting the purchase of homes in Hawaii by non-residents. This legislation is not only crucial for preserving the affordability and cultural heritage of our communities but is also reflective of a growing trend seen in other states seeking to protect their local housing markets.

- The influx of external buyers has significantly driven up housing prices, making it increasingly difficult for local residents to afford homes in their own communities.
- Like us, several other states have recognized the negative impact of unrestricted external investment in residential real estate and have implemented measures to prioritize housing for their residents. These precedents underscore the viability and necessity of our proposed bill.
- The preservation of our unique cultural identity and community cohesion is at risk if we continue to allow our neighborhoods to be purchased by those with no ties to our heritage.
- The strain on local infrastructure, including roads, schools, and public spaces, is exacerbated by the growing number of homes owned by non-residents.

By supporting this bill, we align ourselves with a broader movement to protect the interests of local populations against the pressures of global real estate trends. It is a critical step toward ensuring that the people of Hawaii, and our children and future generations, can afford to live in and contribute to the communities that have shaped them.

I appreciate your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter and urge you to pass this legislation for the benefit of all Hawaiians.

Best regards with much aloha,

Erik Chu

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:46:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahela Twist	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2617

Lahela Twist

Po Box 880664

Pukalani Hi, 96788

Email: Ltwist@hawaii.edu

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by keeping the housing costs affordable, and allowing our communities to continue to flourish with Aloha.

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Lahela Twist

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:46:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emilia perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a hardworking, 100% tax pay citizen of Hawai'i, I 100% support this bill and cordially, humbly & kindly ask that you push & move Bill SB2617 forward in legislation. Foreign entities should Never be allowed to by realty/ property in the State of Hawai'i. Hawai'i is a finite resource that should only be reserved to buy for people who permanently live here & 100% give back to the Hawai'i community & infrastructure.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:47:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eres	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a young adult. And I would like a chance to even buy a home here in Hawaii. With people buying out Hawaiians, how could I afford my own home? Land needs to be strict and in Hawaiian Hands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:47:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beau Bayne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian born and raised citizen of Hawaii. I support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:47:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beau Bayne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian born and raised citizen of Hawaii. I support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:48:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makalapua Pelletier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Makalapua Pelletier. I am kanaka maoli and was born and raised on the island of O‘ahu. I support SB2617. Malihini should not be able to purchase land or property here in Hawai‘i. This bill is indeed LONG OVERDUE. Kanaka and kama‘āina families are being pushed out of their homeland due to the high cost of living and the high competition that foreign investors bring. We need to stop this from further happening in our pae ‘āina. If we do not stop foreign buyers, kānaka and kama‘āina families may be erased from Hawai‘i altogether. Where will our keiki live? Where will our mo‘opuna live? I am 26 years old still living at home because I can't afford to live alone. Where will I live? My generation has nowhere to go except with family or to the continent. Put kānaka first. Put kama‘āina first. STOP malihini purchasing property here in Hawai‘i. Mai poina 1893. This bill is LONG OVERDUE. Reparations need to be made. Justice needs to be served. Mahalo for considering this bill and acknowledging our plight. **Please do something before it is too late.** We beg you to make this right for the people of Hawai‘i. NO FOREIGN OWNERSHIP. Kiko pau. Ua lawa mākou i ka pōhaku. We are satisfied with the stones. GIVE US OUR ‘ĀINA BACK.

Famous are the children of Hawai‘i
Ever loyal to the land
When the evil-hearted messenger comes
With his greedy document of extortion
Hawai‘i, land of Keawe answers
Pi‘ilani's bays help
Mano's Kaua‘i lends support
And so do the sands of Kākuhihewa
No one will fix a signature

To the paper of the enemy

With its sin of annexation

And sale of native civil rights

We do not value

The government's sums of money

We are satisfied with the stones

Astonishing food of the land

We back Lili‘ulani

Who has won the rights of the land

Tell the story

Of the people who love their land

Mahalo nui loa.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:48:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KANOE MERINO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am absolutely in support of this bill preventing foreign buyers in Hawaii. As a native Hawaiian, I am doing this for my children and their children and many generations to come, in hopes that they can continue to live in our beautiful island home and perpetuate our culture.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:48:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:49:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Johnston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It will protect the people of Hawaii allowing them to have priority in property purchases.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:49:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am i support of this bill As a native Hawaiian, i feel it is imperative to preserve our land for our people. If foreigners are allowed to continue to purchase our land, we will truly be a Hawaii without Hawaiians. Our people will be fully displaced, and our land will never be the same. It is our responsibility to preserve our lands for the future generations

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:50:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kayla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kayla. I am Native Hawaiian. Born and raised on Hawai'i Island. Mahalo to Senator Brenton Awa, Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, and Senator Angus McKelvey for introducing this bill and for your efforts to bring this to life. I support this proposal to stop foreigners, as defined in this bill, to stop purchasing lands in Hawai'i. It is about time we acknowledge the transactions that Hawai'i is experiencing regarding land and property. I imagine a world that prioritizes Native Hawaiians and generational families in Hawai'i. I believe this is a step in the right direction towards a dream that I and many others believe and really want to see come to life. Please listen and work with this bill and be there to navigate the future with us.

Mahalo mahalo mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:51:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashleigh Laakea Gambol Nahina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii will not exist without Hawaiians. Outsiders beyond the state of Hawaii do not share the same values ie Aloha Aina.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:51:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Neves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I 100% support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:52:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamakane Pico	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a native Hawaiian Born raised molokai and now living on oahu. I have seen through the years how land has been taken and then built mega buildings and mega houses. Houses on the market continuously bought out by outsiders investors, Who buy out with cash. Only for us to not be able to afford any housing let alone own our own land. Even if we had chance to buy we couldn't go against their offers it's too high and they almost always offer cash and win the bid. we ths natives and locals have been moving because we cant aford it. It only seems fair that we cap it on outside buyers with huge amount of capital. Give us a chance to own Land Or a house. We need a chance, and for the future generation . Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:52:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mitchell Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617.

My testimony was deleted twice, despite "saving progress."

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:52:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayo Malik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. We have an extreme housing crisis in Hawaii and we desperately need more housing for locals! Real estate sales should be limited to local resident buyers only.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:52:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerry Long	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Locals first. For too long, Hawai'i has served as a cash cow for foreign investors and a playground for the wealthy. US private equity is a problem that must be tackled at some point too, but this is a big step in the right direction.

K. Ilima Long

Mō'ili'ili

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:54:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Summer begnaud	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because I believes it protects the land and the distinct beauty of the culture that Hawaii provides. It is important to keep Hawaii special and not have it scooped up and enjoyed only by rich foreigners and those not from here. Land ownerships should belong to Hawaiians.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:54:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paulette Kamakana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No foreign principal should own investment property in Hawaii. We should limit the amount of investment properties in Hawaii to 30% and 70% should be owner occupied.

Save Hawaiian Lands and keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaii's hands.

Mahalo,

Paulette Kamakana

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:54:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcus Tauvela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2617

Marcus Tauvela

91-1061 Kamehilo St.

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

5 February 2024

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by allowing what keeps Hawai'i special, it's people--kanaka and kama'aina--from leaving in mass exodus while outsiders continue to pimp the islands out for self economic growth (greed). More people with selfish mindsets coming into Hawai'i, more people with the aloha spirit and a mindset of "taking care" leaving Hawai'i.

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Marcus Tauvela

Oahu resident, born and raised for 32 years

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:54:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Sanborn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. We should not allow foreign entities and citizens own some of the very limited amount of property we have in Hawai'i. We are facing a housing crisis, unprecedented rates of homelessness, and Native Hawaiians are being priced out of their native land. This is a good start to support the indigenous people of this land.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:54:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zackery Solmirin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to stop foreigners from buying up the house so us locals have a chance. To many of my family and friends had to move cause they couldn't afford it here anymore. Alot of us just want to own a home. Please stop foreigners from buying everything.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:55:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Yomes-Cunha-Ling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please let this bill pass through for our future generations. We all struggles enough as it is and by allowing foreign people to purchase our land and destroy it for their own benefit isn't okay and it makes the cost of living go higher and higher..Many locals and native Hawaiians had to move away because they can't afford it and it isn't fair. It was taken from us before please don't do it again. Thank you for creating this bill because it gives us a chance to actually speak and be heard. If you guys actually truly care about us and our generations then please pass this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:55:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dasia Nakatani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Dasia Nakatani and I am native Hawaiian. I am currently furthering my education, and attending nursing school. I plan to finish school, work here in the islands, and one day start a family. I have about a year left of school, and a few years until I plan on having children. I would like to raise my future children here. I would like to have some type of security in knowing that there would be space for me. That there will be space for my younger siblings and their future families. I am trying my best to do things ethically and financially correct, but with the rise of foreign purchase of land here in Hawai'i, my dream of one day being a homeowner seems less attainable. I grew up in downtown Honolulu, and I don't think that it is fair that people like me, other Hawaiians, as well as residents that have lived in Hawai'i for many generations, be pushed out of what we call home. The Hawaiian culture is grounded on traditional values related to family, community, and land. With more foreign purchase, where do you see the future of Hawai'i, the Hawaiian culture, and its people? I support SB2617, for me and my family, and the people of Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:57:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Del	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This place is incredible and though I am not from here, it is awful watching people who look like me treat this land like their playground with no regard for the native land or customs. I have and will continue to do my best to respect and support this place and its people and i appreciate greatly the acceptance I've felt so far. I once again apologize for my peoples actions and behavior and I will do my best to compensate. Many thanks

Del

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:57:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Huntington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bill: 2617 SB RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

Chelsea Huntington

Thompson School of Social Work: MSW Student

University of Hawaii

February 5, 2024

CPN/TCA

Hawaii

CR 224 & Videoconference

Honolulu, HI

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB2617 - Prohibiting Foreign Principals from Acquiring Real Property

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill SB2617, which aims to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property, with certain exceptions. This bill addresses critical concerns related to the

potential influence of foreign entities on our state's real estate market and safeguards the integrity of our communities.

The provisions outlined in SB2617 are both timely and necessary to protect the interests of our state and its residents. The proposed legislation defines a "foreign principal" and establishes clear guidelines for ownership and acquisition of real property. By requiring foreign principals to register ownership with the Attorney General and mandating buyers to provide affidavits attesting to their non-foreign principal status, SB2617 adds an additional layer of transparency and accountability to the real estate transactions within our state.

The authorization for the forfeiture of real property or an interest in real property acquired unlawfully further strengthens the deterrent against any potential abuse or violation of the proposed restrictions. Such measures are crucial for maintaining the sovereignty of our state and ensuring that our real estate market remains a fair and just arena for our citizens.

While I acknowledge that the bill declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025, I firmly believe that the long-term benefits of safeguarding our state's real estate market against potential external influences far outweigh any short-term financial constraints.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to carefully consider and support Senate Bill SB2617. By passing this legislation, we take a significant step towards protecting the interests of our state and its residents, promoting transparency, and maintaining the integrity of our real estate market.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will make the best decision for the well-being of our state and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Huntington

Chunt44@hawaii.edu / 317-408-3857

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:57:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kalena Charlene Holani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will allow Hawaii residents to truly have the chance to own Property in Hawaii. It will keep from price drives, gentrification and ultimately help to sustain the essence of what makes Hawaii different from everywhere else in the world. Look at Tonga, or anywhere else in the world that doesn't allow outsiders to own property in their country, look at how the cultures and people perpetuated themselves and lands and lifestyles. I am for this bill please save the future of Hawaii and vote yes.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:58:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teisha Kealoha-Kekahuna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support "The Long Overdue Bill." I'm doing this for Hawaii, our future, our people, our keikis and the next generation. We belong here!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:58:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashlee Valeros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ashlee Valeros, I'm a resident of Laie. I would like to lend my support to this bill prohibiting the sale to foreign principals. With the constant rising cost of living the last thing we need is more outsiders buying up homes and rentals and not supporting our local community.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:59:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika pangelinan.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am in support of the Long Over Due bill. Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands. No more foreign buyers in Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:59:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brennan Hozaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I support bill SB2617. As a local, and someone of mixed native hawaiian ancestry, it baffles me on how the government still continues to allow foreigners to purchase property here in hawaii. Hawaii is such a small place, most of our 'āina has succumbed to ownership by people not local/native to this place. For years and years, foreigners have built homes, timeshares, hotels, on 'āina that could have been for a generational local/native. Every year Hawaii loses its local people due to costs of real estate. These ohana folks move to the mainland because they cannot afford a property in Hawaii. We need this to end! We need our ohana to stay in Hawaii! We need our 'āina back! We need foreigners to stop buying our land! Please. Countries like the philippines, thailand, china, and even canada have integrated bills and laws like this into their government policies. The government of hawaii needs to finally listen to its people...

mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:00:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
louise fa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill cause I was born and raised her and so was my mom. She passed away and could not afford a house for us. And I would like to be able to bye something one day for my two daughter. It's so hard. We a grateful to have cheap rent but would like to own something in the future.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:00:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Maile Constantino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a 24 year-old, Native Hawaiian, born and raised in Maui and I am writing in **support of SB2617**.

After reading the submitted testimony opposing this bill, I strongly urge our elected officials to question if the ongoing purchases by foreigners of Hawai'i land have positively benefited the people of Hawai'i, past just lining the pockets of some. Because in the Hawai'i I live in, I see more and more Native Hawaiians moving to the continent. I see the homeless encampments growing. I see parents away from their keiki because they need to work two to three jobs to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. I see foreign investors (and out-of-state purchasers) continuously disregard protections already put in place to protect Hawai'i, the people, and the culture.

SB2617 will give Hawai'i residents a fighting chance at homeownership. Passing SB2617 is a direct reflection of our state motto, "*Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono*," and the responsibility of our government, per our state constitution, to "reserve the right to control our destiny, to nurture the integrity of our people and culture, and to preserve the quality of life that we desire."

Mahalo for reading.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:01:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Miyatake-Palictc	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not sure why the state would not support this unless they love seeing their loved ones unable to afford to live here due to the competitiveness of buyers outside of the state. Hawaii is so unique and special from all other states. I would like to keep it this way by keeping the local people here where they can afford housing or even have a chance at it. How can the state sit back while thousands are moving away from where they are born and raised?

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:02:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arnie Gosiaco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel outsiders should not be allowed to buy lands and homes because they raise the market out of reach for us locals. My kids live in the mainland and would love to eventually make there way home if it's feasible. They would like to come back and raise their family in this special place we call home.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:02:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kecia littman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Native Hawaiians should have the right to protect their ancestral lands from foreign ownership. To ensure this, legislation must be put in place to prohibit foreigners from purchasing land from Hawaiian people. This protection is crucial for preserving the cultural and historical significance of these lands for future generations. It is imperative that laws are enacted to safeguard the integrity and sovereignty of Hawaiian lands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:03:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kilauea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have too much outsiders buying and selling while our people have to move away to afford anything it is a sad Hawaii for our people who are the true Kamaaina to this place

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:03:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Santiago	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaiian being able to grow up on our land is a pleasure. Seeing foreigners take over OUR LAND and OUR KINGDOM is such a disgrace to us Hawaiians . We should be able to have the land to ourselves and not share with these foreigners. Us hawaiians don't feel Hawaiian when our land is just being taken over from foreigners! We the People of Hawaii are Dying to get a piece of our Land, while these foreigners are taking over. Something needs to be done to stop these foreigners from buying our LAND.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:04:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tristen Daniel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo for your time and consideration.

As a tax paying citizen, I strongly support this Bill. We all know and agree there is a housing shortage; this is one step in the right direction. I personally know of a home that has sat empty for over four (4) years while the foreign investor sits and waits for the market to reach their desired profit margin; this is not the only one.

Again, Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Mālama pono,

Tristen Daniel

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:04:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ZephyrLynne Bird	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm only a 16 year old Hawaiian, Samoan, and Okinawan girl. I can only do so much to protect my people, my culture, and my 'āina. Everyday I think about how so many foreigners take over the islands each day. They take over our parking, our beaches, and most importantly our land. The land that belongs to native Hawaiians, the land that was stolen from native Hawaiians, the land that was illegally occupied and taken over. Hawaiians lost so much. Everyday we lose more Hawaiians because it's too expensive and there's no space for us. I cry thinking about how much of an connection real Hawaiians have with this place and are forced to live in the mainland. Priced out of paradise again and again. The least you can do is stop foreigners from buying out the land. It wasn't your or there's in the first place. The land can help rebuking Hawaiian culture, the people, families, the environment, and ecosystems. I may be just 16 but I know what's right and I know how corrupt our government is and how our people suffer. Do what is right for the culture.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:04:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill so my keiki and their keiki will be able to practice and perpetuate Hawaiian culture in their kūlaiwi.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:04:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kauilani Kalama-Ohelo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Kauilani Kalama-Ohelo, support SB2617. I do not want foreigners to be able to purchase land or homes here in Hawaii. This bill is long overdue and needs to be passed to address the skyrocketing cost of homes in Hawaii. We need to house our residents instead of allowing people from other countries to price us out. I am concerned with my daughter's ability to afford a home here.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:05:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Dumlao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as I have seen many of my family over the last two decades have to move out of their homes due to rising costs. The little time that I was working as a real estate agent really opened my eyes as to who is buying the real estate here. Many of the people that I would see and work with could not even pronounce the names of places or even cared what they were. To see and hear that knowing how much family has moved and the fact that my partner and I with Masters degrees still be unable to afford anything in the places where we grew up. If we are able to stop the rising costs and allowing people who do not care about this place from owning parts of it. I am in full support of it.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:05:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoey Kalahiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2617 to prohibit foreigners from buying land in Hawaii. I think it is so important to prioritize our native Hawaiian and local communities. By stopping foreign companies/individuals from purchasing land in Hawaii, we can hopefully keep locals/native Hawaiians here in Hawaii from being priced out of our home.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:05:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Rayne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

It is so important to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. This is nearly impossible with the amount of outsiders moving in from out of state, but when foreign investment and big money enter the picture it becomes increasingly hard for the voices of the local population to be heard. This is a measure to protect the Hawaiian people and local population from further genocide and marginalization. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo piha,

Andrea Rayne

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:06:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aleiyah Kalama-Ohelo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. I do not think that allowing foreigners to purchase property in Hawaii is beneficial to the residents of Hawaii. Please pass this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:06:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josephine Ah Nee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is an important step to making sure that Hawaiians are able to stay on their ancestral land. It is no secret that native Hawaiians have been pushed out of the islands due to their inability to compete with outside buyers who are able to pay more for property here; Hawai'i news now just reported in September that more than half of Hawaiian identifying people live outside of the islands. If we as a community want to preserve and proliferate the culture that makes foreign people love these islands so much, then we can't allow foreign corporations to take even more of the little land that Hawaiians now have access to. In Hawaii, land is arguably the most precious resource. To outsiders, it is seen as valuable for its real estate purposes. For Hawaiians, it is valuable because it is the 'āina which nourishes us as we nourish it.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:07:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anuheia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is about justice for our people. Hawai‘is lands should stay in Hawaiian hands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:07:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe it's the correct and honest way of our people deserve to have a home before others or outsider.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:08:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaeralee-Tiare Manosa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that passing SB2617 would be one of the best solutions for the future of Hawaii residents and I wouldn't call the act of passing this bill unconstitutional, I would call that smart. By passing SB2617, I believe that our Hawaii residents would have a fighting chance at keeping their homes and maybe one day buying their own homes. This Bill is HOPE. By removing the ability for foreigners to buy up lands and buildings, we create the possibility for our people and our government to solve some key issues that have only gotten worse over the years. We are the people who pay our taxes and work in industries that support our government and its goals. We want to live here and nowhere else. This is how we can, this is how our government can support us and our goals. We care and we matter. Please... SB2617 is a good bill, we need it to be passed.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:08:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keala Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617 because, we Hawaiians should own our lands. Out here in Waianae, we see too many foreigners purchasing and occupying our Hawaiian lands with their basil farming and many of her crops. We Hawaiians should be able to purchase and farm our own agriculture on our own Lands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:08:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zion ahyou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe Hawaiians as natives to our island should not have to compete with foreigner buyers and forced out of our own islands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:09:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaitlin Kerby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that the Hawaiian deserve a right to their land. If you have Hawaiian blood you should not have a problem finding housing on the islands

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:09:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Javan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep hawaiian lands in hawaiian hands

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:09:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iolani Morikami	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Let's stop foreigners from purchasing property here in Hawai'i and driving the locals out!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:10:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theodore Lessary	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Theodore Lessary a native to the island of oahu. I am submitting my testimony to stop foreign outsiders from buying hawaii real property. We need to start thinking of our people and most of all our families and their future. If we continue to allow foreigners and outsiders to buy real property there will be no room for our children's future. I have multiple family members and friends who had to move to the mainland because they couldn't afford the cost of living here due to this ever growing issues and not having the chance to own their own home in our hometowns. Every time foreigners and outsiders are allowed to buy real property the housing only gets open up for more foreigners to come here and buy buy buy but in return of you allowing this to happen the rental and home ownership sky rockets to where the native people cannot afford to have this opportunity to pass on to our children. We need to stop foreign and outsider real property purchases and start offering the native people help to be able to buy land real property at a cost that's affordable to continue the hawaiian legacy of being able to pass on to our children our hawaiian lands. Hawaiian lands should be PURCHASED by the natives of Hawaiians lands only. Im fine with visitors but not them buying up the land. NO TO FOREIGN REAL PROPERTY PURCHASES. Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:11:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Dart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of bill SB2617. I do not agree with people from foreign countries to be able to buy land or property in the state of Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:12:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charina Toilolo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I've seen too many families and friends have to move away due to rising prices here in Hawai'i. I was lucky to purchase a home 7 years ago in Kāne'ōhe before prices started soaring. As my family grows, I had hoped to be able to move into a larger home. Unfortunately, with the ongoing high rates and prices, that may never happen. I do understand there are multiple factors involved, but having to compete with foreign buyers is a huge one! How can we keep the aloha and keep the 'Ohana together when our land is being bought by foreigners! We need to start to take care of the people of Hawai'i first! Mahalo for your time!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:12:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Sepp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of this bill. Keeping housing in the hands of our citizens would be a boon to the state, and significantly aid in the housing struggle of residents. To oppose this bill would be to overtly disregard the basic needs of the location population. Please vote in support of this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:12:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailani Crompton- English	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that foreigners shouldn't be able to buy property in hawaii because of the housing crisis. Also much of the land should be worked into being Hawaiian homes. Instead of being sold off

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:13:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mason dolormente	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:13:28 PM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaymilyn-Victoria Ta'amua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian I am SICK and tired of foreigners being able to purchase land that they know nothing about. I am tired of seeing my people deal with the consequences of these actions while others are reaping the rewards that is rightfully ours. Our land is sacred and we as the people of Hawai'i should be able to decide who is allowed to own our Aina.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:13:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanica Mariani-Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2617

Shanica Mariani-Harris
 46-229 Kahuhipa Street #B-403
 Kaneohe, HI 96744
 Leilani.gurl1221@gmail.com
 808-692-6896
 February 5, 2024

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by [briefly mention key points of the bill and its positive impact on the community].

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Shanica Mariani-Harris

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:14:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaylyn H Mahoe Subica	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Members,

My name is Jaylyn, and I stand before you not just as a resident but as a descendant of the Hawaiian people, whose roots run as deep as the history of these islands. The land we stand on is part of our heritage, our culture, and our soul.

It is with a heavy heart that I express my concern over the increasing difficulty for locals to remain on our ancestral lands. The escalation of real estate prices, fueled by affluent outsiders, has made it challenging for native Hawaiians to afford homes. We find ourselves in a relentless competition against resources that far exceed our own.

The spirit of Aloha teaches us to welcome others with open arms, but it should not come at the cost of losing our lands. It is crucial that we protect the interests of native Hawaiians and ensure that our lands remain in native hands.

I urge you to consider the long-term impacts on our people and to enact measures that ensure we, the descendants of these islands, can continue to live and thrive in the place that our ohana has called home for generations.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:15:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Waileia Tupou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in support of: SB2617

Submitted by:

Waileia Tupou

3030 Lowrey Avenue

Honolulu, HI 96822

To whom it may concern,

My name is Waileia Tupou and I am writing in support of SB2617.

I believe that this bill is something that should have been implemented long ago, to secure this land for its people, not foreigners.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope to hear of the implementation of this law.

Mālama Pono,

Waileia Tupou

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:15:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Dougherty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo to everyone hearing this bill out.

we need Hawaiian people in Hawai'i. It is too easy for foreigners to bring in large amounts of outside money to buy up the land

tell them buy time share not our housing for our native people. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:16:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tiare lawrence	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:16:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill as we need to start focusing on our local people and keeping them here in Hawaii and not move away. So instead of allowing foreigners a chance to buy up the Aina us locals so preciously need, we need to give our local people a chance! Especially those families who have been here for generations! Prohibiting foreigners on further more purchasing any Aina is one step closer to preserving what we true locals are trying so hard to keep alive. Which is Hawaiian customs, traditions and the real Spirit of Aloha

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:17:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenna Murad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a 30 year resident and renter on the north shore Oahu plus a small business owner for 15 years I am in support of banning all foreign purchases of land for in Hawaii. Give local residents a chance to own. Protect Hawaii from foreign investors. Give locals a better opportunity to own. Please support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:17:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Yamagata Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In full support of SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:17:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamanuena Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop selling our lands to foreigners! Government officials or whoever is selling our ‘āina need to start making pono choices for the people who live here, who are trying to make a living and raise their families here. Foreigners come in by up the land and use the precious, limited resources that should be used by those who live here. We're told we can't water our yards. We get threatened if we use too much water. But let foreigners come in and build and they can use all the water they like. Enough is enough. Take care of those who voted you in and trusted in you that you were going to make pono choices for those committed to living here. Make it fair and affordable (\$1,000,000+ is not affordable) for my children and grandchildren and generations to come to be able to stay and live here in their island home. Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:17:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luchelle Fa'alafua-Faria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am a Kanaka Maoli Native Hawaiian and I support this bill 100 percent. Please do your part in helping us and future generations keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. Mahalo Nui Loa!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:17:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jafra Depontes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

this bill needs to pass as native Hawaiians, local residents who have been here for years cannot afford to live on the islands anymore. We are the people that keep Hawai'i, that are hearing 24/7 and the ones who truly knows what it is like to live here for years. We take care of these lands and we belong here.

As a native Hawaiian , Hawai'i is Hawai'i because of its people. We continue to lose the natives we all will lose Hawai'i. We work hard to continue to live here and yet we do not get any fairness in purchasing a home amongst many other things. We live in a place where tourism, snowbirds and Covid transplants (people who work remotely) and forgeiners are able to flourish and yet the ppl who lived here are from here don't even have a chance to buy homes. It took me and my husband both native Hawaiians 18 months to finally purchase a home. We lost our comtjnall tk cash offers by people who have never ever been to hawai'i. We are what keeps hawai'i alive , we are why people come Visit and we deserve a right to own a house in our home. This is more pressing than ever due to what has happened in Lahaina. Those lands need to stay in the hands of the people of the people who loss. Please please follow other states other counties. Make a stand for what is right, make a stand for the people , do what is pono!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:18:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystalyn Edwards-Calma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the "Long Overdue" bill (SB2617) because Native Hawaiians should be a priority in Hawai'i. We have been long overlooked and seldom supported within our own 'āina. It is time for change.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:18:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Dunham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's hard enough with congress restricting the ways we can make money and having the toughest state to operate a business within. Let's keep the property with the locals give them a break somehow since we've been screwed for so long.

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:19:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maikalyn Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For years, Hawaiians have been forced out of their land because it was being bought and profitted off by foreginers. The cost of living never makes it any easier for Hawaiian to stay in Hawai'i. By passing this law, it'll ensure that Hawaiians have a fighting chance to stay on their 'āina. The Hawaiian laguage, culture, and people will thrive. The true beauty of Hawai'i will be salvaged, and we can show how much we can flurish as a people!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:19:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Ganzagan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:20:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iakona Makaneole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian hands!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:20:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. I believe foreign principals should not be able to acquire real property in the state of hawaii. There is limited land in Hawaii and it needs to be dedicated to the people of Hawaii and not up for sale to the highest foreign bidder like how many property has already been.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:23:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristen Aona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. It has been difficult for my ohana and I to live on our own. Currently we live with family, despite my husband and I both working full time, we still are unable to afford to buy our own place. The real estate market is so competitive and favors cash buyers. It is impossible to compete with foreign investors who have deep pockets and resources. It is our hope that with this bill in the future we and other families like us can continue to live in Hawaii and be able to purchase a home.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:23:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill. It is necessary to ensure homes and real estate are available to locals and will potentially decrease gentrification of our state. Mahalo nui.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:23:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS AND COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

3:00 p.m.

On the following measure:

S.B. 2617, Relating to Relating to Real Property

Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

My name is Ashley Monden. I am a homegrown special education teacher at Mililani Mauka Elementary in the central district on the island of Oahu. I am submitting testimony as an individual. I am submitting testimony in support of **SB 2617** relating to real property.

As you may be aware, Hawai'i has the highest home prices in the country. For many teachers like myself, the idea of owning or renting a home feels completely out of reach without taking on multiple jobs.

Being a 5th (gosei) and 6th (rokusei) generation Japanese American who was born and raised in Hawai'i, I have heard stories of my ancestors working on sugar and pineapple plantations, experiencing internment camps, and eventually buying a modest home in Moanalua. Sadly, a few years ago, my grandmother passed away, and we had to give up our family home because I couldn't afford the mortgage on my teacher's salary and my part-time job.

The cost of living in Hawai'i continues to rise, making it increasingly difficult to find affordable housing. It has always been my dream to own my own home, just like my parents and grandparents did. However, it feels like that dream is slipping away. Allowing foreigners with no investment in Hawai'i's culture, language, or people to buy property and land takes away from the local population. I remember a time when the aloha spirit thrived because of the local people who made Hawai'i what it is, not because of outsiders.

I urge you to pass SB 2617 and prevent foreigners from buying up land, pushing locals away. It is important to protect our community and ensure that housing remains accessible to those who have a genuine connection to Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Ashley Monden

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:24:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malena Dinnan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please keep our land out of foreigners hands.

thank you,

Malena Dinnan

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:24:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desiree kalama keliikuli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Desiree Kalama Keliikuli, I am Native Hawaiian and I strongly support SB2617. For too long our native people have been forced out of our homelands by foreigners. This is our home, our land and the birthplace of our Kupuna. Enough is enough.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:24:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makalea Parongao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:24:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Ohai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have watched other states and other countries successfully halt the rampant acquisition of real estate by foreign nationals. This has caused a pause in the market that allows for local alternatives to develop and grow. We have had too many years of outside money taking over available property and pricing local families out of the market. Enough is enough. Support this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:24:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gordon Caluya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You MUST pass this bill. For you Democrats (if you've been in office since the early '80's, and if you haven't, then your predecessors), you had a chance to do something about this in the early '80's when the Japanese were buying Hawaii real estate and prices skyrocketed! The Democrat run government did NOTHING about it, and it happened again in the last 10-15 years when Chinese investors again bought up properties and caused the most recent price spike! I have a feeling it involves "Kickbacks" somehow but we won't get into that here! Anyway, Fourteen other states have passed this type of legislation, but our weak-spined Attorney General, who seems to be even Worse than Doug Chin was, claims this is Unconstitutional. How can it be Unconstitutional if FOURTEEN other states passed similar legislation??? Just use the same or similar wording of the laws those 14 other states used! It's NOT rocket science!

DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII for a change and Support this Bill! Mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony.

Aloha,

Gordon Caluya

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:25:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Racquel Araki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom this may concern,

Me and my family 100% support this long overdue bill, which would keep foreigners from buying in these Hawaiian islands. Laws like this are already implemented in other areas of the United States, and around the world. It's absolutely unconstitutional how Lands and homes are only allocated to The Highest bidder while others are swept aside in the pursuit of greed and wealth. Aloha is law! And this "State of Hawaii" goes against our Hawaiian constitution by treating the people of this land, as they are less than because they don't come from Generational wealth, or international Investors. The health of the land and its people are being stewarded by the state you don't have to look far to see the native Hawaiian people, and the land, suffering, so greatly by the neglect and disrespect of the economy and its bottom line. Do what is Pono, what is correct for these islands so it can be abundant with life and aloha and flourish once again. Please consider my testimony and know that it speaks for all of Hawaii and its people.

<https://www.hawaii.edu/uhwo/clear/home/lawaloha.html>

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:25:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danika Viluan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge our legislators to support this bill. As a young Native Hawaiian whose career and passion is to better the communities that raised me and create opportunities for the next generation of Hawaiians and locals, I find it crucial that we do something to ensure that we have the opportunity to do so here, on our kulāiwi, the lands of our ancestors. By supporting this bill, it will give young natives, like myself, better more hope as to be able to stay in Hawai‘i in the future.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:26:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617! I am astounded by the rising cost of living here in Hawai'i. As a long time resident, I am finding it harder and harder each year to make ends meet. International buyers are coming in to purchase property and then jack up rent to amounts that locals cannot possibly afford. This is our land. It should be in the hands of our people, the ones who sweat and bleed for these islands. Hawai'i is not a place to make a profit. Hawai'i is a place to respect culture, to love one another, to love 'aina. We don't want the beauty, serenity, and joy of these islands to go into the pockets of someone who doesn't even live here and respect the place enough to give back. If you own property here, you have a kuleana to steward it for the people, to make sure that the income remains within THIS economy, to build up our people. Please stop the foreign takeover of the 'aina.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:26:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kanani Akui-Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, and hope it paves the way for future laws to keep Hawaiian lands in our hands.

thank you

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:27:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipo Sarkissian Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and believe that it will give people who are from Hawaii a chance to stay and reside in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:28:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanelia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill 100%. As a kanaka maoli I find it that even though there are housing options such as Hawaiian homes, the homes in Hawai'i still should be left for those in this state! Mahalo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:29:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelica Pelekai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If we keep allowing foreigners to come in and buy properties on Hawaiian soil, there will be no land for us Hawaiians to live. Allowing foreigners to come in and buy out properties because they were able to afford one previously outside of Hawai'i and be able to save just to live the 'island life' is not right in all aspects. Hawai'i will not be Hawai'i without Hawaiians. Foreigners coming in and buying homes will only force us to move mainland. Think of the native people first, think how can we keep Hawai'i, Hawai'i? By only allowing native descendants to purchase properties is the only awnser. Please don't push us out of our home because Hawai'i will never be the same without us Hawaiians.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:29:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

As a mom of four, I look at my island and realize that my children may not be able to live her all their lives. The lack of affordable housing and limited land will impact their lives. Keiki that have been born and raised on our island should have the opportunity to purchase land and live here. I live in an area that has been overrun by mainland buyers. Many of there people do not live here full time and their homes and land lay empty and stagnant for months at a time. This is frustrating as I know so many families that live on island that are unable to find homes to purchase.

I am in support of this bill in the hopes that it will allow our lifestyle of Hawaii and aloha to perpetuate.

LATE

Chairs Lee and Keaholole and Members of the Committees:

I am Mikala Masina-Hadley, a resident of Hawai'i. I was born and raised in Hawai'i going to public schools, attended the state university and am now a teacher at the Hawaiian immersion school in Kona.

I support this bill to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interests. The people who were born and raised here are no longer able to afford living here. The local people are getting priced out of their hometowns and are unable to make enough money to afford a mortgage due to houses being sold to foreigners. My husband and I have been looking to purchase a home for over 3 years and somehow we are unable to find a home that is livable in our price range. I personally know many local families that have been outbid by people buying property sight unseen.

To keep the people who make Hawai'i so special and filled with aloha here, I urge you to support this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:30:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Tilton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill to prevent foreigners from purchasing our land and houses as they are limited and end up out pricing our community and native Hawaiians. Our housing situation is already in turmoil and something should have been done years ago to prevent this situation from occurring. The influx of foreign investors and the absurd increase in rent has had a huge impact to our homelessness and this should help to curtail some of it.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:30:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex N	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Living on the north shore of Oahu, I find it increasingly impossible to be able to afford a home for purchase when there are so many individuals from the mainland buying up homes for the sake of renting them as illegal vacation rentals or holding properties as an investment. The majority of my neighbors are not from here, they are new tourists each day. How is a 4th generation local supposed to be able to afford to raise a family here amongst her Ohana and be proud of where she is from. I know several military individuals from the mainland who were stationed here, purchased a \$900k home with only \$8k down and rented out their house at the cost of their mortgage and then were stationed in the mainland with no intention of coming back. This is not ok! We need to protect those who were born and raised here to be able to afford a decent home and support their desire to raise a family on the same lands that raised them.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:31:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brede Kaopio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in full support of this Bill. It's about time we have a bill like this.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:31:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cierra Hesia-Salvador	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a native to Hawai'i. I have hawaiian in my blood. And yet I cannot buy land here because it is so overpriced and out of reach for many of us locals. Having people that do not have the same respect for our home as we do (not all) coming and buying land and building homes that they live in (majority of the time) once a year that we can never afford to buy back is unfair and flat out ridiculous. I believe they should have restrictions and requirements to buy land at the least. I know so many that buy before they even come and see it. Yet we locals drive past a house that we wish we could buy everyday and majority of us have come to the realization that it might never happen. We will have to move away from our home to be able to buy a home. Sounds pretty outrageous to me. It's disheartening and puts a damper on you. No wonder so many locals are homeless and on some type of narcotic. Not to say it's justified but it is a big part of the reason. I am a hairstylist/barber and I deal with many of the people that transplant here and some of them could care less about any of us. They want to make a profit. Buy an overpriced piece of land, build a million dollar house on it, sell it for more. Everyone wants to live in hawaii they say. But yet they come here and change it. And they are allowed to. If this keeps happening hawaii will no longer be hawaii because all of the Hawaiians can't afford to stay. Tell me what happens then? Where's the aloha spirit that they say they love? It's spread across the world because it got price out of its home. The aloha state doesn't have aloha for its people. And that needs to change. I know change isn't instant but this change should have been made long ago. If it doesn't happen soon the damage may not be repairable. Mahalo, for your time and hopefully your consideration!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:31:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sesilia Sikma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The land of Hawai'i should only be owned by American citizens. Priority should go to Native Hawaiian people, specifically. No foreigner or foreign investor should be able to own land or buy property in Hawai'i, as it is morally and ethically wrong. There is no Hawai'i without it's Hawaiian and Local people, and allowing foreign investors would only displace the Local people even more.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:32:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS AND COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

3:00 p.m.

On the following measure:

S.B. 2617, Relating to Relating to Real Property

Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

Aloha mai,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2617, which addresses the critical issue of land access for the Native Hawaiian community. My name is Kana Naipo, a proud Native Hawaiian resident, and a high school teacher deeply committed to shaping the future of our community through education.

As a high school teacher, I bare firsthand the challenges faced by our community, particularly in terms of affordable housing and land access. Many of our ohana, including mine, struggle to make a living on a teacher's salary, making homeownership a struggle or elusive dream. SB2617 presents a crucial opportunity for Native Hawaiians to purchase land and establish roots in the place they call home.

The connection between land and identity is profound for Native Hawaiians, and this bill addresses a fundamental need within our community. Providing affordable access to land is not just about homeownership; it is about preserving cultural ties, fostering community strength, and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

I urge you to consider the real and immediate impact this bill will have on individuals and families striving to build a life in the place they cherish. To do so, will require your support to keep out foreign investors who have no stake in perpetuating Hawaiian cultural values but rather to make money through exploitation. By supporting SB2617, we are not only

addressing a critical housing issue but also contributing to the preservation of our cultural heritage.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will stand in support of SB2617 to empower Native Hawaiians in securing a meaningful and sustainable future.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kana Naipo

Native Hawaiian/ Public School Teacher/ Struggling homeowner

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:32:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Furukawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Bill SB2617. It is very difficult for local people to buy a home here in the State of Hawaii. I was born and raised here and I am of Hawaiian Descent. My family and I struggle to pay bills and afford a mortgage. I cannot even imagine how my children will be able to afford a home in the coming years.

When foreigners buy land and homes, it leaves the local citizens with less options and it drives the price of real estate up. We need to follow the lead of how other countries take care of their people, such as New Zealand and Switzerland, where foreigners can't scoop up properties. Please pass SB2617 for the future of our children.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:32:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystallee Spencer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

My name is Crystallee Spencer and I am in full support of Senator Brenton Awa and SB 2617. I see the prohibiting of real estate sales to foreigners as a big win for Hawaii residents, specifically those with Hawaiian ancestry. For so long, the state has allowed non-residents to purchase land and property here, which ultimately drove up housing prices for locals. The effects have pushed many of our kanaka out of Hawaii simply because they cannot afford to continue living here. We deserve a chance to stay in our generational lands and not have them sold off to large entities or foreigners. I am 39 years old and cannot afford the ridiculous housing prices here. We don't want to leave, so please help us to remain here. Please pass this bill and allow kanaka to purchase land. Mahalo nui.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:33:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ua Keaulana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel compelled to voice my concerns regarding home purchases by foreigners in this special place we've called home since the beginning of time. The escalating number of foreign buyers has brought about negative consequences for the local community for much too long. Beyond driving up housing prices, these purchases contribute to the displacement of native Hawaiians, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford homes in their own ancestral lands. The cultural fabric of Hawaii is at risk as these properties often remain vacant or transform into vacation rentals, disrupting the sense of community. Furthermore, the influx of foreign investment tends to prioritize profit over the well-being of the local population, leading to a loss of connection to the land and heritage. It is crucial that we address this issue to preserve the unique identity of Hawaii and ensure that the people who call these islands home are not marginalized in their own communities.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:33:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Daniels	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our ancestral land is only ever benefitted by its people inhabiting it. Taking away one of our biggest issues when trying to secure land that we as HAWAIIANS are (or should be) entitled too will allow a sense of security and privledge to be given back to Hawaiians. People not born, raised, and connected to/and in Hawaii do not see and utilize land like we do. Speaking from experience- my other half being able to secure land even if its just AG land, has allowed him, myself, and many others to engage in our ancestral practices we otherwise would have never been able to do. My other half grows Kalo on this land, he is able to nourish our community and has restored our 5 acres. Imagine if we didn't have this and a couple from Iowa gained access to it instead. You think they would have done anything to this extent ? Absolutely not. I can almost guarantee they would've actually made it worse. They simply just don't know. No connection, no ancestral ties, no sense of kuleana- malihini will never be able to benefit our land, only take. Give the Hawaiians that want to access land a chance, see what can be done. It's amazing what happens when you allow us to perpetuate our culture. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:34:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasia Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is rightfully named "Long overdue!" My testimony is not long as it is the story of so many in my generation. My husband and I moved away from home in 2016 in search of better and more affordable living. When I left I was a 24yrs old I was already working 3 jobs just to support myself in hopes that I could afford to purchase a home like my father did when he was 24. Unfortunately it did not happen in Hawaii because the cost of living and disparaging wage gap. I beg that this bill be passed because it could be the reason I can afford to come home and raise my son where he deserves to be!!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:34:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Au	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm here to testify to the urgency that would be supported greatly if this bill is passed. The Hawaiian race and culture is in serious danger of becoming extinct the more we continue to allow foreigners to purchase the land our k̄naka have tended to and lived on for generations. Our k̄puna would be devastated to see the current state our beloved Hawai'i is in. Devastated to see their mo'opuna having to move to America just to make it in life and being priced out of the land and place in which they are from. Hawai'i is NOT Hawai'i without the Hawaiian people. It is not pono that others can exploit our culture for their business and it is not pono that people who are not of this land are allowed to purchase lands just because they are able to afford it more than the actual people of this land. It is hard enough making a living here and finding a decent job in our home land, let alone make enough to both survive and compete with mainland buyers in a financial housing market that we had no say in developing. I know the housing market has nothing to do with this bill, but it is unfair for non-Hawaiians to even put a price on a place that is not rightfully theirs while those without power stand on the sidelines helpless as we watch our 'aina slowly being striped away from us and our children. Please pass this bill and help stop the endangerment of the Hawaiian nation. The land is one of the very few things we have left of our culture.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:34:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bevin Miranda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2617

Bevin Miranda
7002 Hawaii Kai Drive PH111
Honolulu Hawaii 96825
Bevin.Vashti@gmail.com

2/5/2024

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by [briefly mention key points of the bill and its positive impact on the community].

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Bevin Miranda

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:36:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Artaho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this "long overdue" bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:36:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Mactagone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill hands down. Hawaii is not for sale and it's about time, there is finally a chance for this to be a reality! This will stop the people from Hawaii who are being priced out of paradise and having to move to the mainland. This is for all our keiki who are the future!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:36:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gizelle Rodrigues	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm Gizelle Rodrigues, a senior at King Kekaulike High School. I am a Native Hawaiian born and raised on the island of Maui.

I stand in support of SB2617.

As a senior getting ready for adulthood- I have been researching and filling out college applications. My ultimate goal is to serve my community through my career. But, applying for FAFSA and scholarships, getting ready to leave home, and wondering what kind of roommate I'll have is not at the forefront of my mind right now. What is? The possibility I will not be able to live in Hawai'i, my home and the home of my ancestors.

I am witnessing my classmates and people I've grown up with struggle with the fear of being priced out of Hawai'i. Many are dropping out and are unmotivated in their education due to their families not being able to afford basic necessities. Daily, Hawaiians and local residents think of moving and leaving their homes just so they can have a chance of home ownership.

This bill would help us, the youth, see that we don't need to move to the continent. That our home, Hawaii, has our back and wants us here.

We watch Hawaii prioritize foreigners. We want Hawaii to prioritize its own people. Prove this by passing the bill.

Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:36:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Agustin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We as the people of Hawaii should be able to purchase property on our own Aina. Mainlanders come and buy all our Aina this is why we as the people of Hawaii need to move and go where it is affordable. Because of the outsiders able to purchase our "affordable housing" per our state is 500k and up. How is this affordable when the average families gross income is less than 100k. We need this bill to be passed for our kupunas and generations to come.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:37:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Stop foreigners from buying land/property that locals from Hawaii should have access and first choice to.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:37:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chavis Cabanting	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawai'i Resident, I support this bill. Hawai'i people, HAWAIIANS need to stay in HAWAII. We are being forced out of our Home and being bought out by foreigners. That needs to stop. This bill is long overdue indeed. Keep Hawaiian Land in Hawaiian hands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:37:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaunalei Naki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Shaunalei, I was born & raised a resident of O'ahu Hawai'i for 34 years. I strongly believe with inflation, homeless, unemployment etc that foreigners should have no right to come to our islands to purchase property! We the people of Hawai'i are struggling. Barely making it. Trying to make ends meet so that we don't have to move away to the states. Every day more & more Hawai'i residents are moving away, you all are driving out the Aloha that this state has left. Soon there will be no Hawaiians & no aloha left here. But why are you all waiting until it is too late??? These islands belong to the people of Hawai'i, the people who grew up here, eat off this Aina, the people who actually Malama this Aina/state, the people who actually cares about this island, state, Aina.. We need to take care of our own people first! We need to stop outsiders from coming in & swiping all island. This needs to stop!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:38:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jana Akaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. As a kanaka mother and resident if O'ahu, I am proud to support SB2617. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:38:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zach Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Zach Dela Cruz. Born and raised in Kahuku, Oahu. And have dreamt to own my own home in the neighborhood I grew up in. It is where my father and his siblings grew up, and their mother (my grandmother) who is also born and raised a Kahuku native. Not to mention my great grandparents who were here long before she was born.

Seeing that dream come to fruition, has been a daunting path thus far. Having so little housing opportunity for local families in their hometowns, like on our side of the island, has forced so many to seek opportunity abroad due to lack of housing options and/or price of living here. In any hope to be able to still be a solid part of my community, I'm doing my very best to steward my actions and choices to support this dream.

Having this bill instated could greatly help our chances of continuing to perpetuate the righteousness of this land and aloha. I know many others who have stayed and those who have left to do the best they can, would also agree that keeping it local could save the culture and revive an aloha that could heal the worlds in so many ways.

Thank you for your time.

Aloha,

Zach Dela Cruz

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:39:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ariana Akau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My kupuna died so that I could live here. They died so that my 'ohana and my keoki could be proud of where we are from. They fought for our 'ōlelo, for our freedom, and for our 'āina. They fought so that my kids could learn to 'ōlelo and learn to honor our ancestors the right way. But it was all for what? So many of our pō'e have had to move from our moku due to the skyrocketing prices of housing and property in Hawai'i. The ha'ole take and take and have forced us to move. They have turned our home into resorts and a place for vacation. That is not Hawai'i. Hawai'i is a home to a beautiful culture that is being romanticized and hurt for the benefit of the rich man. Stop haoles from forcing us out. Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:40:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Guerrero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB2617!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:40:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taryn Tokoro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee,

I was born and raised in Hawai'i and am a Native Hawaiian.

The purpose of writing my testimony is because I have seen Hawai'i being purchased by foreigners and I see in so many areas that the lands are being used to accommodate foreigners. This harms us locals here in Hawai'i because as the foreigners purchase all the lands it leaves nothing for us locals. On top of that, we locals are getting taxed so high and we are getting priced out of our Hawaiian Kingdom-State. The foreigners make us, the locals, rent out the lands they purchased while they are in their homeland. This is not right.

I agree that our lands in all of Hawai'i cannot be purchased by any foreigners. The lands shall be only for the Hawaiian people to take back and have as our right to live sustainably, for farming and agriculture, to practice our culture, and for our people to have lands to live on. These lands should be for the people who are Hawaiian, born and raised in Hawai'i and have been here for long generations. These lands should be available for our Hawaiian people so we can prosper.

Mahalo,

Taryn Tokoro

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:40:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cade Oyadomari	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is essential that hawaii residents have an advantage over foreigners when it come to buying homes. Whether it be by highly taxing foreigners or banning them altogether. We need to keep homes in locals hands or our children will never be able to afford to live here. Not only do we lose local residents, but our way of community living. Please don't kick this housing problem down the road! Now is the time for action! Mahalo!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:40:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayne Scott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:40:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davonne Pacheco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as all four of my sons had to move to the mainland because they were "priced out of paradise" as they could not afford the cost of living here and rising prices of homes. I believe a big part to this is foreigners allowed to buy up our land and homes. Please do not allow this to happen anymore.

Mahalo,

Davonne Iwalani Pacheco, RN

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:41:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maralei Kahawai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to offer my strong support for the proposed bill aimed at halting foreign investment in Hawaii's real estate market. I'm Native Hawaiian, kama'aina to this land. I have witnessed firsthand the significant impact that both non-resident AND foreign investment has had on our local communities and housing market.

Hawaii is a unique place to live because of its people, our 'aina, and our values. The surge in non-resident AND foreign investment over the years has led to many concerning consequences. The influx of non-resident AND foreign capital has driven up property prices to astronomical levels, making it increasingly difficult for local residents like myself to afford homes and even rentals. How can we ever dream of saving money to OWN a home in Hawai'i when the average rental price where I live in Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i is \$3700 per month and our minimum wage is \$14 per hour? The result of non-resident AND foreign speculation in Hawai'i - not just on Hawai'i Moku'puni but across our pae 'aina - is displacement of our local people, whose families have been here for generations, who have never known another place. They are forced to leave the only place they have ever known because they can no longer afford to live in the communities they call home. I have many family members and friends who have relocated to Moku Honu because it is not economically sustainable for them to live here.

The influence of non-resident AND foreign investors has distorted the purpose of our housing market. Homes that should serve as primary residences for our local people are often left vacant for months or utilized solely as investment properties/vacation rentals. Our home has turned into an investment playground for people who do not live here and bring their unwanted and unwarranted ways of being. As a result, our sense of community diminishes and our local economy is deprived of the benefits that come from having active, engaged residents - homeowners, business owners - who contribute to our society and help improve our community. Hawai'i will not be Hawai'i anymore if outsiders from other places successfully erase what makes Hawai'i special.

Additionally, the environmental impact of foreign investment should not be underestimated. Many foreign investors have been purchasing properties for short-term profit, which often results in neglect of environmental conservation and sustainability efforts. Hawaii's unique ecosystems deserve protection, and we must ensure that our housing policies align with our commitment to preserving our 'aina.

By passing this bill, we have an opportunity to restore balance to Hawaii's housing market and safeguard the future of our local residents, the everyday people that live, work, and play here. It is essential that we prioritize the needs of our local residents over the financial gains of non-residents AND foreign investors.

Mahalo to our senators who proposed this bill. They are listening to the people and trying to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where our local families can thrive and our culture can flourish.

I urge each of you to support this legislation, which will help preserve the essence of our beloved Hawai'i, and ensure that our housing market serves the people who call this place home.

Mahalo piha

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:41:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Spear	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:41:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Nerveza-Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Tiffany Leilani Nerveza-Clark and I am a Native Hawaiian that resides in Senate District 10. I recently heard about Senate Bill 2617 and am in support. Both my husband and I are professionals and we are not able to purchase property within our district due to inflation and the ever increasing prices due to foreigners driving up costs. As a Native Hawaiian and a kanaka maoli, I strongly support SB 2617, allowing residents to one day be able to purchase property once again.

Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:42:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support bill to prohibit foreign buying of Hawai'i land in our great state of Hawaii and look forward to seeing how our justice system handles these issues going forward knowing great bills like this is being pushed forward into light for justice for the Hawaiian people. Aloha

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:42:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randen Kamanu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the passing of this bill.

LATE

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2617

Darlene DePonte
91-1259 Kinoiki St
Kapolei, HI 96707
ddeponte.223@gmail.com
808-348-6087
02/05/2024

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair Lee and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by restricting foreigners from purchasing real estate in Hawai'i and monopolizing the real estate market. This bill will allow for a more competitive market for Hawai'i residents helping residents to stay in Hawai'i instead of forcing them to move elsewhere. The Hawai'i state government should be helping their own residents to prosper as a society rather than always putting foreign interests first. This is a step in the right direction to make it possible for our residents who had to move away (my 'Ohana included) to come home.

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Darlene DePonte

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:43:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cruzita Kauimaikalani Enos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This past weekend was a celebration of life my Ohana organized. Being present at Nānākuli ranch and the beach park with my family created a consistent thought. Thank you Jesus for our Hawaiian land.

This is about being honest in our ways, especially now as old generations leave, and new generations are rising. Hawaiian land is not just a term created by the state. The islands were occupied by Native Hawaiians long before foreigners, up until 1893. Now we are apart of the United States, and although we may not have the ability to become independent, we have the right to fight against outside ownership.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:44:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naveah Pukahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the bill SB2617, because as a young Native Hawaiian resident in the State of Hawai'i, I would like to be able to have the opportunity to purchase land for me, my family, and the future generations to come. Growing up I have seen many Native Hawaiians & long time residents of Hawai'i move away because of the cost of land & homes in Hawai'i. Due to the rise of foreigners purchasing land and homes here, it made the cost skyrocket and unable for locals to buy and provide for their own 'Ohana. Passing this bill will be the first step to bringing our Kama'aina home, and will allow all of us Native Hawaiians/ locals to thrive

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:44:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Alcon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill to prohibit foreign principles from purchasing real estate in Hawaii. When we allow foreign investors this privilege they take advantage of it and kanaka like me cannot compete with their deep pockets. I have been living on Oahu for the last 10 years but I am a born & raised Molokai girl. We, the Hawaiian people need more opportunities to continue our lives where our roots lie. If we do not stop foreign buyers from acquiring real estate in Hawaii, eventually there will be no Hawaiians left. What makes Hawaii special is its people. Unless we make a change, Hawaii will no longer be filled with Hawaiians. We need to pass this bill!! Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:44:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB2617. Stopping foreigners, individuals, and/or entities that are not "native" to the United States (i.e., individuals, organizations, or entities not born or within the boundaries and territories of the United States or are not naturalized US Citizens) from purchasing land and/or property within the state of Hawai'i is a critical step in the right direction in combating the housing crisis that is plaguing the state. Developing new "affordable" housing in Hawai'i, while helpful, only compounds and complicates the issue as many locals (i.e., Kanaka) are unable to afford the prices that are set, even if the prices are lowered. I implore you to make the right decision and pass SB2617 for the people of Hawai'i so that all of us and future generations can continue to live here without being "priced out of paradise."

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:44:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marisa Pangilinan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I believe this bill passing will create a more positive Hawai'i, keeping homeowners in Hawai'ian hands and supporting the island by showing local owned homeowners are valued over off island ownership. Valuing communities over money making. Thank you.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:45:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ana Su'esu'e	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:45:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaikala Tamanaha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We don't have the room to allow foreigners to buy up property when locals cannot compete with them. We must take care of our local community to ensure we have housing available first hand.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:46:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawai'i is not for sale. This bill can be part of ensuring there is housing for the people of Hawai'i. Please pass this bill. Mahalo!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:47:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Haia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Nicholas Haia and I am in support of SB2617. My opinion is that foreign investors/ owners of real property heavily influence the market price of property and housing to an extent that it negatively impacts those that currently reside and live in the state. I feel as those that own multi million dollar properties and use them as a vacation homes, the land can be better utilized for more housing or affordable housing to deal with shortages in the housing market. Countless families have left the islands due to the expensive cost of living, by essentially liquidating properties owned by foreign entities and replacing them with more affordable housing for the people that live here. I believe it will help to alleviate the housing crisis and lower cost of living, as well as creating more job opportunities for construction companies and other entities. I sincerely hope the bill is passed and we can keep the locals, local and give the people the help they deserve.

Mahalo,

Nicholas Haia

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:47:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
claudia c k quintanilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I'm for bill SB2617 to stop buying Hawai'i lands...

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:48:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Coral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STAND FOR THIS BILL THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE SELLING OUR LAND TO FOREIGNERS. WE NEED TO BE SURE THAT THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN ARE SECURE ON THE ISLAND THEY CALL HOME. THE DISMANTLING OF THE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF OUR LOCAL FAMILIES NEEDS TO STOP. SPIRIT OF ALOHA WILL DISAPPEAR BECAUSE IT LIVES IN US NOT THE ISLAND. THOSE WHO PURCHASED THESE LANDS WILL NEVER HAVE THAT SPIRIT, BECAUSE IT IS SOMETHING YOU CAN NOT EVER PURCHASE. YOUR BORN WITH IT.

MAHALO

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:49:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annie Tangonan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am in support of this bill as we the local people are being bought out of our own homes. Next we need to be more strict on allowing people from the mainland from purchasing homes as they should be a long time resident first before buying. Last step is to pass the bill on changing how homes are priced. Pricing needs to match income of local residents, etc.

mahalo, Annie Tangonan

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:49:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:49:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Traylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I completely and strongly support this bill. This bill will help reduce cost of living for residents and also availability of real estate for local buyers.

This bill really is long overdue and should have been done before all other efforts.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:49:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachael Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think it is unfair to allow a non-American to purchase land in the state of Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:50:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micalah I Crane-Worley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is LONG OVERDUE. For decades the rights of Hawaiians to their homeland have been overlooked and ignored but NO MORE. "Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands". As a citizen, I want to see more Hawaiian neighbors, more Hawaiian friends. I want to see more Hawaiian people embracing their land, their home. I've lived here for 6.5 years. I've seen this place change from once a safe place with aloha, to rampant crimes every day. I believe this is due in part a massive exodus of Hawaiian people leaving their home and foreigners coming in bringing in their foreigner mindset. I support this bill 100% and will be looking closely at the politicians who are voting against this bill. I will keep their votes in mind when I cast my vote for elections this year.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:50:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
T Viluan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want my children and grandchildren to be able to live in Hawai'i if they choose to. The cost to own a home here is ridiculous. They can't even get approved for a loan before someone not in or from Hawai'i offers more than the asking price and in cash!

Please do the right thing so Hawaiians can stay and thrive in Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:50:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharron VanDeusen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:51:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sailor Erlandiz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 5, 2024

Sailor Erlandiz

44-720 Alakai St.

Kaneohe, HI 96744

BILL SB2617

Aloha Hawaii State Legislators,

I am in support of bill SB2617 to ensure a brighter future for the people of Hawaii. When you look at what makes Hawaii, Hawaii. It is not the tourist attractions or the loads of people that come in from other states. It is the native people of this land. The stewards who care for this land and know the meaning of Malama Aina. I support this bill so that Hawaiians will be able to live in their homelands for generations to come.

Mahalo,

Sailor Erlandiz

LATE

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2617

Chad DePonte
91-1259 Kinoiki St
Kapolei, HI 96707
chadz527@yahoo.com
808-348-6087
02/05/2024

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair Lee and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by restricting foreigners from purchasing real estate in Hawai'i and monopolizing the real estate market. This bill will allow for a more competitive market for Hawai'i residents helping residents to stay in Hawai'i instead of forcing them to move elsewhere. The Hawai'i state government should be helping their own residents to prosper as a society rather than always putting foreign interests first. This is a step in the right direction to make it possible for our residents who had to move away (my 'Ohana included) to come home.

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Chad DePonte

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:52:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

If its been passed in another state then I as a person born here in Hawaii, say lets start reserving all property for Hawaiians and people born here which would make them Hawaiian citizens.

If it hasn't been past anywhere else, lets be leaders and lead the way for states with native and indigenous people that are continually being bought out from the only place they know as HOME.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:52:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kalen Fleming	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support sb2617

mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:52:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrean Hayashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Adrean Hayashi, and I am a resident of Honolulu. I am writing to express my strong support for Bill 2617SB, which seeks to regulate the acquisition of real property in Hawaii by foreign principals.

As a near lifelong resident of Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the significant impact that unregulated foreign investment can have on our local real estate market. The increasing acquisition of land and properties by foreign entities has not only escalated property prices but also made it increasingly difficult for local residents to own homes in their own state.

Bill 2617SB is a crucial step towards ensuring that the interests of the people of Hawaii are protected. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State, except for minor indirect interests, this bill helps to safeguard our local real estate market from being excessively influenced by foreign investments. This is not just about economics; it's about preserving the cultural and societal fabric of our communities.

The registration requirement for foreign principals owning property before July 1, 2024, is a necessary measure for transparency and accountability. It will provide valuable data about foreign ownership patterns and ensure compliance with the law.

Moreover, the provisions for divestment within three years in cases where property is acquired under specific conditions ensure that the spirit of this bill is upheld even in complex situations.

I urge the committee to pass this bill, not only to protect our real estate market but also to uphold the rights and interests of the residents of Hawaii. Let's ensure that our state remains a place where locals can afford to live, work, and thrive.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Adrean Hayashi

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:52:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Kay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill & highly urge those in authority to pass SB2617. This will insure that Native Hawaiians will have an opportunity to continue their families legacy in their home, as well as locals who have contributed greatly to our beautiful islands. Tourism is already taking over our islands & using all of our resources. Don't let Hawaii be ruled by foreigners!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:52:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Roldan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617 foreigners should be banned form buying land in Hawaii take care of the Hawaiians and the local people born and raised here

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:52:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kale Ornellas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's about time our state stands up for the perpetuation of our culture through land ownership. It has gotten so far gone by pilgrims even the state leadership is. I support this bill .

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:53:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Teruya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to stop selling our lands to outsiders!!!
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! Protect US the people that pay your checks!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:53:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian lands for the people of Hawaii!!!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:53:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shantell Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Generations before myself, it's been hard to purchase land or homes here in hawaii or to keep any of them in our Ohana to say the least. Help our people KEEP THE LAND & HOMES more available for purchase for our people & the generations to come. We are being bought out of this place WE call home. Born & raised!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:53:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
miles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For the sake of Hawaiians who have owned family land and plan on keeping it like that for the next generations... my land is one of the last in my little community that is owners by a local family and the prices have been driven up all around making it harder to support the cost of owning land here.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:54:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for Hawaii law SB2617, which aims to prevent foreigners in acquiring real property in Hawaii. This legislation is a crucial step forward in allowing the native people to hawaii to remain in Hawaii and allowing our people to perpetuate our culture and language and maintain our ecosystems to ensure a safe environment for our generations to flourish.

I believe that passing SB2617 is essential for our future businesses and economy. The provisions outlined in this bill demonstrate a thoughtful and proactive approach to prohibit foreign principals to acquire real property. Furthermore, SB2617 aligns with Hawaii's values such as environmental stewardship and community well-being.

I urge you to support SB2617 and help make a positive impact on our community and environment.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Ashley Rapoza

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:54:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Kahalepauole-Bizik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Bill 2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:55:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawai'i land is a finite resource that should only be allowed to be sold to non-foreigners. Allowing foreigners with deep pockets to purchase our land artificially inflates home prices by reducing the available real estate on the market and prices local tax payers out of the market. A core value of Hawai'i is land stewardship. When we sell our land to foreigners having no ties to our communities nor physical presence, we violate this core value. Lastly, foreign purchases do a disservice to our communities as any revenues generated from these investments are taken abroad rather than staying within the community.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:55:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

I am writing in support of banning foreign individuals/entities from buying/acquiring land in the state of Hawaii. We have too many local families leaving the state because the market has sky rocketed after foreigners and non Hawaii residents purchase property/homes in Hawaii as an investment. Hawai'i families are living with 2+ generations in one home. The cost of these properties have not just tripled in price over the years but have reached exuberant amounts. Properties that were \$150,000.00 -\$250,000.00 previously are now well over 1 million dollars now. How does that happen when it is the same property and no real change has been made? How do he Hawaii families afford such properties when most are barely making \$40,000.00 a year. How is it that foreigners and non Hawaii residents can obtain/acquire land and people on the Hawaiian homes waiting list can not? Stop this foreign invasion so that Hawaiians can prosper and remain home. Stop this so that Hawaii will still be the one and only place with true aloha. Stop this so that our culture can thrive once again, so that Hawaiians and the Aina can be one again. Our elders/ kupuna are struggling to keep their lands. If we continue to allow foreigners and non Hawaii residents to buy all the real estate properties, our keiki will not have Hawaii to call home.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:55:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hi'ilawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I endorse the legislation aimed at restricting the acquisition of land in Hawai'i by foreign entities. It is my conviction that prioritizing the rights of Hawai'i's residents to purchase land is essential to ensure that the local population is not displaced by individuals lacking genuine connections to the region. Such measures are crucial to prevent natives from being compelled to relocate to the mainland in search of available land.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:55:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasa mcdonald	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stop Foreign entities and foreign people from purchasing more Hawaiian land it's wrong!
We still have homeless native Hawaiian and that should never be happening. Stop foreign people
from buying Hawaiian land stop selling out.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:56:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katy Clements	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and do not think non residents should be able to purchase property

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:56:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Steavens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sir/Mam,

My name is Dawn Steavens. I am keeping this on point. I am in full support of the Bill 2617 in its entirety. I am asking everyone who has the power to vote on SB2617 to PASS the bill. Hawaii Residents come FIRST ALWAYS.

In a recent excerpt I read how a Foreigner bought huge acreage on another Continent and then told all the locals to get out of his Country. Sounds pretty far fetched. However, Is IT? In place the Foreigner paid off people, subdivided, developed and housed all Foreign Nationals. He made sure a single displaced local was not housed. His Foreign Nationals then took over jobs, voting powers for communities and the locals had to move. What do WE do?

As our brother or sister States pass the same laws at home in their own States, We need to do the same. We start today. We start with GOOD decisions to PROTECT our HAWAII. Pass the Bill.

Sincerely,

Dawn Steavens

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:58:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moani Mundo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

We should support this bill and any bill like this. How can we support the people of Hawaii if we allow foreign entities to purchase land that could better serve the people of this state. We have to start finding a way to offer better prospects for the people of Hawaii or we will lose them and in essence lose what makes Hawaii what it is. This culture is generational lets take steps to preserve these land for the next generation.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:58:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Locquiao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe this bill will be helping the local people of Hawaii USA instead of selling our island to the highest bidder. Too many friends and families born and raised in Hawaii and it's special culture have left home because of the cost of living. We still have to compete with mainland buyers for homes but at least this bill will give local families more opportunities.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:58:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mainei kinimaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Native Hawaiian woman born and raise in Hawai'i, and I support SB2617 to prevent foreign acquisition of land in Hawai'i. It is already far too difficult to acquire land as a native resident, and this bill would help keep land available for residents who are indigenous to Hawai'i. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:00:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon Fia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please prevent foreign buyers from parking their money here to avoid their own taxes and not even utilizing the property. All it's doing to driving up real estate prices and pricing out locals. For those that already own property it is also driving up their assessment values on their property tax making it harder and harder every year to survive.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:00:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabriel Jardin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:00:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Malaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2617. We've lost so much land to foreign developers to date. We need to put a stop to this. We need to fight for local families. Too many of us have to resort to moving to the mainland to attempt to own a home. Not to mention all the Hawaiians dying while on the waitlist while so called "affordable living" condos go up quicker than anything or any type of construction. It's heartbreaking and disgusting.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:00:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmaline Padeken	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:01:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessie L Ferguson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

We need to keep our island Ohana's from relocating as the "Aloha" leaves with each and everyone of them and has been shown over the last decade. Our island needs to preserve land for the locals and keep our Aloha alive so that are Keiki can enjoy our ancestor's hard work and appreciate how special our islands are!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:01:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana An	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. There are too many foreign entities buying land that locals could be buying. Hawa'i is not a huge place. It has limited land and resources. The land and resources should go to kanaka maoli first.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:02:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiani Kim-Luning	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have allowed foreigners and their influence to run this state for far too long. It's time we turn the page and close this chapter. You have the ability to make a change for the next seven generations. Let us leave our keiki and their keiki and the next seven generations with something to be proud of. Do not put our people last. Allow people to stay in Hawaii to keep Hawaii, Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:02:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janelle Damo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to be passed so my ohana will not be priced out of paradise.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:02:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Tadaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the complete ban of foreigners purchasing land in Hawaii. I support Bill 2617SB.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:03:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmyn Paulo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly support this bill and pray you all do too! Mahalo!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:03:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sugki Suguitan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Honorable Members of the State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill SB 2617, which aims to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in our state, with exceptions for de minimus indirect interests. This bill is crucial for safeguarding our state's real estate market, protecting our communities, and ensuring transparency in property ownership.

As a lifelong resident in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of foreign investment in our real estate market. While foreign investment can bring benefits such as economic growth and diversification, it also poses significant risks, including inflated property prices, housing shortages for local residents, and potential national security concerns.

By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in our state, except for de minimus indirect interests, this bill addresses these risks while still allowing for limited foreign investment that does not threaten our state's interests. Additionally, requiring foreign principals who currently own real property to register their ownership with the Attorney General ensures accountability and transparency.

The requirement for buyers of real property to provide a signed affidavit attesting that they are not foreign principals further strengthens oversight and enforcement mechanisms. This will help prevent circumvention of the prohibition by foreign entities attempting to conceal their ownership interests.

Furthermore, the authorization of forfeiture for unlawfully owned or acquired real property, along with the establishment of penalties, sends a clear message that our state takes violations of this law seriously and will take decisive action to enforce it.

I also acknowledge the fiscal implications of this bill and support the appropriation of funds necessary for its implementation. While it may exceed the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025, the long-term benefits of protecting our state's real estate market and ensuring the integrity of property ownership far outweigh the short-term costs.

In conclusion, I urge you to support Bill SB 2617 to protect our state's real estate market, safeguard our communities, and uphold transparency and accountability in property ownership. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Sugki Suguitan

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:03:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inoa robello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe Hawaiian homes should stay with the Hawaiians and locals who were born or raised here. More foreigners come everyday and take away the land away from the people who have worked so hard and tried to save and preserve what we have left. I believe locals should be the only ones to have access to homes here. More and more locals are being pushed away from there homes because of this and have to move away. Hawaii is looking like Hawaii anymore because of this and I believe there should be change.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:04:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiaora Bohlool	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:05:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca diego	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is the start to keeping Hawaiian land in Hawaiian hands. My Keiki deserve to be able to stay on their aina and for them to be able to purchase their own property someday.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:05:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Something needs to be done to stop the outside buyers from coming in and driving up the market for local families who live and work here. We're moving to the mainland due to work relocation but the move was so easy because of the simple fact that there is no way we can buy a home in Hawaii. We've been stuck living in an affordable rental for the past 7 years, which by the way is not affordable. Our rent has gone up 5 times in the time that we've lived there. Why would we stay? For our rent to continue to go up and for nothing to change? More homes are being built and they're all starting in the high 900 thousands?! Or a little townhome I the high 600 thousands? It's sad and embarrassing to say the least. Shame.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:05:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalukea Kekua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with it 1000%

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:06:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucky Kanahele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai owau o Malaki Kanahele. Owau te haawi nei to'u ae me holomua i teia kanawai e hoopono ia nei. (I urge our legislators to move forward with this bill and i am in full support as a Kanaka Maoli no hawaii nei that we need to preserve and protect our aina at all cost for the benefit of our future generations. Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:06:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Yockey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Megan Yockey

Honolulu, HI 96822

yockeymeganm@gmail.com

5 February 2024

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by minimizing the economic exploitation that our people face. It is increasingly harder for local people, especially Kanaka Maoli, to stay in their homeland. Foreign investors should not be choking out the space for locals to own homes and businesses and build a sustainable local economy.

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Megan Yockey

In support of SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:06:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahealani Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident born and raised in Hawaii, it is almost completely impossible to own or even rent a home in Hawaii. When things come available foreign investors and others pay cash and offer way above actual market value for homes that have been part of families that we have known for generations. We are asking for a fair shot to continue to raise our keiki and live our lives here at home, instead of having to move away to be able to survive.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:06:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katrina Turner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. Too many times we see foreign investors who don't care about the 'Aina or people here, they just want to make money. Amongst other things, they build these "monster houses" and cut corners where they can to maximize how much money they can make renting out these properties.

Hawai'i has limited resources and is precious to those who live here. These residents are the people who should have the chance to own and care for property here. We need to start stabilizing our market or no locals will be able to afford to live here anymore. This bill is a great step forward in that direction.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:06:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac E.K. Kupihea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE

To Chair, Vice Chair, and all Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support SB 2617 as it poses a significant step in the right direction to improve the housing market and make it affordable once again for locals and their families, like me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

May Kanani Garcia

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:07:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammy Luat-Hueu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB2617 to prohibit foreigners from purchasing property in Hawaii. I live in Maui where home prices are over a million dollars. How will my sons be able to stay in the land that their ancestors have been for hundreds of years? By prohibiting foreigners from purchasing property here, we may have a fighting chance to keep our future generations here. Please do the right thing for the people of Hawaii!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:08:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabriella K. Mata-Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO 2617, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

PROHIBITS FOREIGN PRINCIPALS FROM ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE OR ANY INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE, EXCEPT A DE MINIMUS INDIRECT INTEREST.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS.

DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

TIME: 3:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Favor of SB2617

Welina mai e Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees,

My name is Gabriella Mata-Wong, and I am a Native Hawaiian resident of Hawaii Island.

I am testifying **in strong support** of bill SB2617 which prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest.

1. **Addressing Housing Affordability:** I consider SB2617 a crucial measure to tackle housing affordability challenges. By curbing foreign speculation and ownership, the aim

is to stabilize property prices and enhance accessibility for Hawai'i residents, making housing more affordable.

2. **Protecting Nature Resources:** Hawaii's distinctive environment and natural beauty are major draws for residents and tourists alike. Limiting foreign ownership through SB2617 is seen to preserve these resources, preventing large-scale development or exploitation that could compromise the state's natural appeal.
3. **Fostering Economic Protectionism:** I see SB2617 as a tool to protect local businesses and industries. The restriction on foreign ownership is viewed to prevent foreign investors from dominating the real estate market, thereby safeguarding the interests of local entrepreneurs.
4. **Aligning with National Trends:** Highlighting that similar legislation has been successfully implemented in other states, endorsing SB2617 aligns with this broader trend. It emphasizes the importance of consistency and competitiveness in enacting measures that limit foreign ownership of real estate.

Other states that have enacted a foreign ownership law in the 2023 legislative session include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia.

Given that numerous other states have passed legislation akin to this, the claim that they are "unconstitutional" ought to be rejected.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Gabriella K. Mata-Wong

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:09:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julian Moulds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands!

Come on guys, this is a no-brainer. Local people, especially Kanaka Maoli, need more of a say in what happens to their Aina. Allowing foreign investors to scoop up lands that could otherwise be used to improve the health and livelihoods of our local people and increase our opportunities for sustainability is not pono! The Hawaiian people have been fighting for their land for generations! Allowing foreigners (and other outsiders) to develop and profit from these lands is wrong. There should be more legislation pushed forward to limit and hopefully cease all outside ownership. This has already been done in many other countries and states and is a step forward in allowing local and native peoples more control over the land that truly belongs to them.

Mahalo for reading and Aloha.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:09:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quentin Kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:09:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee McCartan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this “long overdue bill” preventing foreigners from purchasing property across Hawaii. I do not consider SB2617 to be an “unconstitutional amendment.” Furthermore, other US states have already passed similar bills protecting their lands. Sadly, the isle of Molokai was purchased by Hong-Kong based Guoco Group almost 20 years ago. Molokaiians have had nothing but major problems ever since, and I do not want to see history repeat itself.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:09:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Pollak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of bill SB2617. It needs to be passed to prohibit the sale of land to foreign entities. After seeing the problems first hand on Moloka'i, caused by the "ranch lands" being owned by Guoco Group, I want to prevent this from happening to anyone else. When foreign people own the land they don't care about what is best for the land and the locals, only what's best for them.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:10:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherise	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop foreigners from purchasing homes.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:10:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As someone who has been born and raised in Hawaii I've witnessed this island change so much and not necessarily in a good way. Watching affordable housing projects pop up that keep the people who can afford to live in them at a level that they can't make enough money to move up or advance in the world. And those who really need it making just a bit too much money to qualify. While this is happening million dollar condos are popping up all over the island owned by foreign investors who are profiting while the working class locals are suffering. We do not make enough money and will never make enough money to afford our own homes if the foreign investors keep coming in and out bidding the locals and selling to other foreigners. This needs to end in order to keep the people of Hawaii in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:11:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Euta Lightsy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe this bill will help the residents of Hawaii to stand a chance of purchasing a home here.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:11:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I have only lived in Hawai'i with my family since I moved here for work, in my time here I have witnessed people I have come to know and adore endure the wrongdoing and failures at the hands of their own government. I must take this opportunity speak for people who have lived their whole lives here and have had to endure the failures of their own representatives their entire lives. Officials elected to protect them that are only concerned with their own well-being. This bill is a chance for this government to rectify their wrongs, and provide for the wonderful people of Hawaii a chance to keep their homeland in the hands of those who can truly call it home. It is of the utmost importance that this bill be passed to provide a future for the children of the great state of Hawaii, and the people who appreciate the beauty of the island. Without this bill this land will be at risk of falling into the hands of those who only seek to reap the resources and opportunities it has to offer for their own personal gain.

I implore those who have the power to protect the people you were elected to represent to do just that, forgo any personal interest you may have that would require this bill be shot down, and do what you were elected to do. Protect. This states government was recently found to be one of the, if not the, most corrupt and selfish governments in the nation. If you as representatives of the people have any shred of self respect humanity, you will take the opportunity before you to give back to the people who have given you your seat. The power of the government is derived from the people. A government who does not protect its people is powerless. Do the right thing.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:11:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Talia Ida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the long overdue bill SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:12:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke Yee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Locals and natives are being priced out of Hawaii by foreigners and those with no interest in taking care of the aina. Stop allowing people to do so.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:13:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was born and raised on islands of Hawai'i. It is very unfortunate with our economy that many people of Hawai'i are unable to afford living in a place that we all grew up. Hopefully with this bill will keep our local residence from not moving away and allow them to live on the islands. Many of our residence do not make enough income to support themselves nor their families. The last thing people want to do is purchase a single family house for \$1 million that still needs to have repairs done on it. This is bill will hopefully deter foreigners from buying property in the Hawaiian Islands. Remember that Hawaiians and the awesome local communities make Hawai'i Nei, not the money from the foreigners....

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:13:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer stadig	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill that Prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:13:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meikaila Makahanaloa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The fight for land here has been long and treacherous. This is one step forward om to a good path. I strongly support bill SB2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:14:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherie Alama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Cherie Moana Ala Kaleo O Kalani Alama! I do not believe anyone should own Hawaiian land but be custodians. Especially if they are not of Hawaiian decent! I am true born Hawaiian and I don't know if my children ma children will ever live freely on Hawaiian Land! I don't qualify for Hawaiian homes because of blood quantum! That's concerning, upsetting and saddening because that means I'm left homeless but not to the beach! Prisoner to a broken system! Especially if the reason is because majority of land/homes in Hawai'i is over priced or sold off to foreigners. That has to stop IMMEDIATELY!

So therefore, I stand with this bill and I agree with anyone who wants to stand up for our rights as Kanaka Maoli and free the chains of our ancestors. We've been shackled to long. Our voices silenced. The time has come for the people aposed to step back and give back what's rightfully owned by Kanaka Maoli! If not, I warn you! That you will feel the heart ache of our ancestors and continue to hear the battle cries. That is not Pono. This will not end justifiably! Hawai'i is not and will never be for sell! Who feels it will know it! If you don't already! God bless everybody! Ea!

Mahalo Nui Loa

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:14:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keliipaahana Anakalea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support bill SB2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:14:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hemaile Helsham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617 for the future generations of Hawaii. Keep Hawaii for the Hawaiian people!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:15:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emanuel Pangilinan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I see too many houses that exist vacant or are totally abandoned in Honolulu in addition to apartments that are rented out with income leaving Hawai'i. This bill passing will allow money to stay in Hawai'i. Thank you for your time.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:16:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael D M Adrian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The only benefit of allowing foreign entities to continue and purchase land in Hawai'i is the short term influx of capital. While the long term ramifications of such transactions are going to prove detrimental to every single demographic that does not currently hold concentrated wealth, for generations to come.

I believe it is absolutely imperative that we limit the ability of people who seek to capitalize of every square inch of our islands. People who would make it their goal to take away any possibility of my children being able to purchase land in the next 25 years. Who are actively taking away the possibility of so many local to continue living here. Priced out of paradise is a term that has only grown to be a reality for more and more ohana as the years go by.

If this bill can start us going in a direction that can lead to the mitigation of such distressing realities, I believe we should put it in action.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:16:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:17:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this bill.

Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:17:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Pollard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to protect the local people from being priced out of Hawaii. I have 2 of my 4 adult children who moved away to buy homes outside of Hawaii because they could not afford to buy a home here. They want to come home but just can't afford to. Please consider our future generations. There is no Aloha without the native Hawaiian people and locals. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:18:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kani kaninaualii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The people of Hawaii are struggling to survive here on their own land. They are being forced out because there are not enough houses for the local people to purchase. The house that are for sale are being scooped up by outsiders. How are generations after generations supposed to live? The houses should be left to the people that live here and need a place. Not for outsiders! If the houses keep getting purchased by people other than the people of Hawaii, then they will be forced to find other places to live. And what is Hawaii without its people.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:18:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a young local boy born & raised in the islands, it will be extremely difficult to be able to own land on this island in the future. This is increasingly difficult considering the low pay im getting (compared to most of the mainland) as well as the constantly growing cost of living. The people in the mainland or from foreign lands have the opportunity to stockpile money in their lives & buy up all the limited housing that the locals need to survive. Many people that don't even live here can buy & rent out properties, screwing over the local people. How is that fair to us? Short answer is that it is not fair & something should have been done to prevent this from happening in the first place, let along letting the problem grow to what it has become. Our "leaders" have failed us for a very long time & hopefully this can be the start of the long road of changes that the islands need to ensure peace & love in the islands instead of the hostility & negativeness that my peers have been protruding for a while now. Mahalo nui

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:19:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamryn Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB 2617. Being a native Hawaiian resident born and raised here on the island of Oahu, I strongly believe it is only fair for this law to pass, with the amount of natives and locals that have been priced out of their own homes, only to profit foreigners.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:19:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Simbralyn Lightsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT THIS BILL!!!! STOP LETTING PEOPLE BUY PROPERTY!!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:19:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Ramsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A bill such as this one is truly long over due. Real estate is an extremely finite resource here in Hawaii and it makes no sense to waste that resource by allowing individuals or businesses with no connection to this place to own real estate purely for financial gain. The citizens should always come first. Allowing competition from outside of the country creates an unrealistic and irrational buying environment for the people who actually live and work here. People who are invested in every way. Not just financially...

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:21:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Galoia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If this bill doesn't pass, me and my family will be forced to buy a home somewhere else like the rest of our family who left already.

Please remember what makes Hawaii, Hawaii are the people living here, if a multitude of us leave Hawaii will just be another state that looks like the mainland. No Aloha.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:22:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danny Kennedy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL (SB2617)

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:22:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Federico Fontanilla velacion jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In my personal experience just by what I see with my own eyes, ever since I was a child I noticed a lot of local families moving and strangers taking their place. Demoing their houses and making HUGE monster houses to rent out to 5+ families, as I've gotten older I notice the ripple effects of all these monster houses being built. More congestion on back roads, more cars parked on roads, seeing new and more faces every other year. It's sad to see that Hawaii has become a place of renters amongst the people of Hawaii and not home owners. I myself am not a home owner and probably never will in this state considering most houses are built to house multi-families or are already owned by people that rather make a dollar off of people that can only afford to rent instead of own a house. In kalihi, on MY STREET ALONE there are 4 properties that are made to have multiple families including mines. So that also means more cars parked, more congestion more problems. I have no problem with people wanting to move here and experience Hawaii as their home, it's a beautiful place but Hawaii needs to take care of the local families first, the people that work here, that raised their families here, the people that put their lives on the line and the people that have roots here. Take care of our own first before we take care of others.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:22:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawehi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the banning of selling land to foreigners. A lot of foreigners come and buy up land to rent out and they take away the opportunity for local families to buy land. They also end up driving up the cost of land, rent, and living. Due to this, many Hawaiian families end up moving away. We need to support our local communities instead of perpetuating a system that forces them to relocate.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:22:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because without something like this, there will be no real Hawai'i left. I'm born and raised and can tell you that mostly all local people are struggling to compete with outsiders buying up the islands. Something needs to change and this is a step in the right direction. Hawaii needs this

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:22:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Sade, am submitting my testimony in support of bill SB2617. I would like to see my future keiki be able to afford and sustain themselves here in Hawai'i and I feel that the local residents and native people of this space deserve priority over foreigners. If we continue to allow foreign people to buy up property here , we will lose the people that make Hawai'i , Hawai'i . There has to be a cap or a balance on this issue , for too long many have continued to be displaced . I hope our voices and testimonies will be heard by the attorney general. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:23:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jake Hernandez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaii in local people hands. We need more industry less tourism. more homeowner ship and less investment firms running rentals. Go Brenton awa go Hawaii make Hawaii great again

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:23:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Morgado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not want foreign people buying real estate in Hawaii

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:24:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pomaika'i Igawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Pōmaika'i and this is my testimony pertaining to the SB2617 bill. I am in full support of this bill as a Kanaka Maoli that has seen far too many of my own personal family and friends leave the islands due to being pushed out. The number of foreigners that i have come across throughout the years has increased exponentially and it makes me sick to my stomach. Where are all my people? Nearly half of the Native Hawaiian population lives elsewhere. It is not all by choice, rather than force. I would like to someday have a house for myself and my Ohana. I would love to have a piece of land that we can cultivate and raise our children on. Not moving place to place trying to make ends meet with different landlords that don't even know how to say my name. Pīlau. Stop allowing foreigners to buy up all our 'āina. Give Hawaiian lands back to Hawaiian hands. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:24:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Ka'imipono Oclaray	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I write in today in support of bill SB2617. It has been long overdue that we take measures in keeping Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. Too long have we suffered under the oppressive nature of capitalism. We have watched land, water, and people be destroyed for the sake of a dollar. Hawai'i can be a leader in creating a future where the governing bodies understand the value of keeping indigenous peoples on their ancestral lands and work towards a pono balance between people and their homes. Please pass this bill. Mahalo for your time.

Me ka ha'aha'a ame ke aloha,

Benjamin Ka'imipono Oclaray

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:25:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Hilbert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support a bill that gives away land to foreign investors that cannot, by lineage, support the mana this land freely gives away. Foreign investors erode at the same culture that brings them here and makes these islands special. I vote to keep Hawaiian lands in the hands of the kanaka.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:26:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fretchie Saramosing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and submit my testimony. Property in Hawaii should be kept for purchase to locals today & generations to come. Should Hawaii continue where we are today, our islands will be over taken by foreigners because locals simply cannot compete.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:26:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pikake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i is constantly being overtake by foreigners dating back to the overthrow of our Queen. Many local families are having to move to outer islands or even to the mainland because they can no longer afford to live in Hawai'i or are constantly losing homes to foreigners who are out buying them. Native Hawaiians should be able to live on their land and given the chance to do so without being pushed out by foreigners. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:27:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandy Carvalho Yoneda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this testimony..

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:27:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Hauanio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Long overdue is an understatement. Being a kanaka born and raised on this 'āina, I weep for those who have been pushed out of their homes and away from families. The life that locals live is not an easy one, struggling day to day just keep their own. With the amount of properties owned by foreign buyers, this land does not feel welcoming to kanaka anymore. Its heartbeat covered by the greed of others. Hawai'i is not like what it once was. But with the passing of this bill, we can reclaim what small bit we have left. Opening up opportunities for future families of those who have been born and raised here the chance to claim what is theirs. "Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono" it is time to stand true to who we are as a state, and a people. It's time to fight.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:27:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rexie K. Ah Chong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not much needs to be said other than this is common sense. If the legislators were actually representing the people of their communities and not political interests, then this wouldn't even need testimonies of support. Please pass this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:28:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Hoomana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must stop all further sales of Hawai'i to non Hawaiians! How is our future Hawaiian generations to come suppose to be apart of Hawai'i, our 'Āina, when foreigners are coming in from everywhere and anywhere buying up every piece of land and further pushing our people out. This needs to STOP and someone needs to stand up for Hawai'i!!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:30:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bristol Dunlap	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a young woman born and raised in Makawao on the island of Maui who has struggled financially to live in the only country she knows as home, Hawaii. I tried living in America but never could adapt to the lack of culture. Culture is the breathe of life that makes a day worth experiencing and being integrated into society. With foreigners settling, washing out our culture without any awareness of how damaging their ignorance is to our land, hearts and economy we see the decline of our countries health. What will be left to sell if we are always taking? Nothing. I truly believe that so many of us locals and natives still living in the islands are suffering because of unmonitored commodification of priceless resources and real estate deals. It is leaving our people the heart of this place in a state of desperation, depression, addiction and hopelessness. So many people have to live in their family homes because it is all they can afford and this is often increasing mental health issues because we have generations of trauma since the overthrow that need safe space and intentional love to heal. We need our culture more than we need money. We need each other to be set up to thrive than any foreigner needs to live here without proven added skill or virtue to help build a better Hawaii upon its base values and existing seasonal changes. We are nothing without the people of this place. Please consider passing this bill to slow the rate of gentrification and white washing of the joys of life that root us to our greatest love: Hawaii. Please take action and make sound informed decision to provide a sense of pride and security in our people that they belong. Keep Hawaii great and bring back great leadership that the people once stove to emulate in their own decisions.

Me ke aloha piha

Bristol Dunlap

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:30:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsie char	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I been waiting for someone to step up and fight for us and OUR aina! We as kanaka have been robbed way to long. Perfect example of my life. We rented a home for 30 years in waimanalo, and when owners finally had to sell the homes, ALL of us local kanaka were out bid by foreigners that have NO INTENTION on living here but to just have it as a VACATION HOUSE. There were 5 homes just on our street that was sold, 5 different ohana that had NO CHANCE against these foreigners. No one is permanently LIVING IN THOSE homes to this day And those homes were sold in 2021.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:30:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaioluhia Miguel-Hamakua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It allows our people, especially Hawaiians(the people of this land) a greater opportunity to stay and thrive here

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:31:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Hermosura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Great Granddaughter of a Native Hawaiian and an immigrant working the fields, I want to live here forever. I want to raise my boys here. Stop allowing foreigners to buy the land that is already scare and overpriced for locals. We need to keep our families on our islands. Stop allowing so many to have to move away because buying a home here is so out of reach.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:31:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Palakiko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am in support of SB2617, stopping foreigners from buying land in Hawai'i, which is truly long overdue.

It may be wise to allow certain needed professions to purchase real estate if they intend to practice full time in Hawai'i, such as certain doctors, surgeons, engineers, etc that we do not have or are in need of in our state.

As a realtor myself, I also might consider having a ceiling on this, such as a \$5 million ceiling as many residents would not be able to purchase at that price. At the same time, if that is implemented, I would prohibit anymore development above that ceiling price range.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration of my concerns in this matter.

Lauren Palakiko

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:31:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a born and raised native hawaiian, I have seen firsthand how real estate has wreaked havoc on the kanaka. If the owner of a property does not reside in said property, that property is useless. Having foreign owners only prevents native hawaiians to a fair chance of a home. Hawai'i is not an investment strategy, it is a home to its people. I'm disappointed I am even having to write this. This should have been dealt with long long ago.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:31:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristy Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:31:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke Dodd	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Maui resident and ICU nurse, I do not support the purchase of property by foreign individuals or investors during the emergency proclamation following the Maui wildfires.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:31:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Mahelona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I greatly support this bill!!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:32:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alisa Hamasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill sb2617. This will allow the local residents to buy houses in Hawaii and to have future generations continue to live in Hawaii. We need to support local families and people and help them. I am a middle income family and we make ends meet monthly with 2 decent jobs and 2 children. We were lucky to buy a home in Maui, but could not return to east side of Oahu with the prices of houses. Other people out-of-state can afford, pay, and cause our house prices to increase leaving it almost impossible for local families to continue to live in Hawaii close to their older generations. Again, I support sb2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:32:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Wong III	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2617

Aloha e Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees,

My name is Joseph Wong III and I am a Native Hawaiian resident of Hawaii Island.

I am testifying **in strong support** of bill SB2617 which prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest.

1. **Upholding National Security and Cultural Identity:** Emphasizing the importance of SB2617 in safeguarding our national security and cultural identity, limiting foreign ownership of real estate is crucial. By restricting foreign undue influence from external entities.
2. **Addressing Housing Affordability:** I consider SB2617 a crucial measure to tackle housing affordability challenges. By curbing foreign speculation and ownership, the aim is to stabilize property prices and enhance accessibility for Hawai'i residents, making housing more affordable.
3. **Protecting Nature Resources:** Hawaii's distinctive environment and natural beauty are major draws for residents and tourists alike. Limiting foreign ownership through SB2617 is seen to preserve these resources, preventing large-scale development or exploitation that could compromise the state's natural appeal.
4. **Fostering Economic Protectionism:** I see SB2617 as a tool to protect local businesses and industries. The restriction on foreign ownership is viewed to prevent foreign investors from dominating the real estate market, thereby safeguarding the interests of local entrepreneurs.
5. **Aligning with National Trends:** Highlighting that similar legislation has been successfully implemented in other states, endorsing SB2617 aligns with this broader trend. It emphasizes the importance of consistency and competitiveness in enacting measures that limit foreign ownership of real estate.

Other states enacted a foreign ownership law in the 2023 legislative session including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia.

Considering that **many other states have enacted similar legislation**, the assertion that such laws are “unconstitutional” should be **dismissed**.

Mahalo,

Joseph Wong III

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:33:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paige Kaʻohu Kawakami	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support this bill because it's a first step toward affordable housing for Hawaiʻi residents and an opportunity to eliminate a major contributing factor of Native Hawaiian land dispossession.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:34:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daylen Kung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

I wholeheartedly support this bill and I sincerely hope that the voice of the people will be heard.

Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:34:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryli Kalahiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Ryli Kalahiki, and I have the privilege to call Hawai'i my home as a Native Hawaiian. Through it should be every Native Hawaiian right not privilege but unfortunately these are the current circumstances that we live in as Native Hawaiians. I've not only been able learn about my culture but immerse myself in it through being present in our Aina. Every Native Hawaiian child deserves to have this upbringing to support the growth of our cultural understanding that was lost for a time. Without this next generation growing up and rooting themselves in Hawai'i the culture won't be able to survive. Our numbers dwindling every year which means less keiki to share our stories and knowledge with. I'm sure your thinking the culture can survive through its people even if they aren't in their native lands, that is false. I ask you to ponder on this, how many displaced peoples have thrived no longer been rooted to the ancestral homeland?

Our islands are small, you can fit about 24 Hawaii's in California. Which helps us to understand that the amount of homes in Hawaii can't support the demand of how many people that want to live here, many in which are not Native Hawaiian or Residents of Hawai'i. Our home, culture, and livelihood is their paradise, but when they over crowd our lands it is no longer Ours. We get pushed out because our rent goes up or we can no longer afford to buy homes. 53% of Native Hawaiians in the U.S. live in the mainland and the numbers will continue to grow every year until we say no more and do something about it. This Bill will do just that. When we prohibit foreigners from buying homes in Hawai'i it leads a small step in the right direction. They may not buy most of the homes in Hawai'i but it will give more opportunities to locals and most importantly Hawaiians. I hope this will inspire more to be proactive and lead our journey to truly leave Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiians hands.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:34:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charleston Mahiai Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO 2617, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

PROHIBITS FOREIGN PRINCIPALS FROM ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE OR ANY INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE, EXCEPT A DE MINIMUS INDIRECT INTEREST.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS.

DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

TIME: 3:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

IN STRONG SUPPORT

Welina mai e Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees,

My name is Charleston Mahiai Jr. , and I am a Native Hawaiian resident on the island of Maui.

I am testifying in strong support of bill SB2617 which prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest.

55% of the more than 680,000 Native Hawaiians living in the United States as of the 2020 census do not reside on their native homelands, which are the places that so distinctively characterize the beauty of our people, our culture, and our place on this honua (planet).

Overtourism, absurd real estate prices, the highest cost of living in the country, and other issues are forcing more Native Hawaiians to flee their homeland in search of more inexpensive housing and employment options outside of Hawaii.

According to Hawaii Business, Native Hawaiians make the second lowest income in the state of Hawaii. Nevertheless, given the few or nonexistent housing options that are available, Native Hawaiians must compete with foreign investors, owners of second homes, and recent settlers. Consider how intensely competitive this market is: from the mega-rich who are putting large tracts of land up for sale to the ultra-rich who are pushing up home prices on the islands, all while forcing Native Hawaiians off their home grounds, all of this is happening.

Other states enacted a foreign ownership law in the 2023 legislative session including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia.

Given that numerous other states have passed legislation akin to this, the claim that they are "unconstitutional" ought to be rejected.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Charleston Mahiai Jr.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:34:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Kitashima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:34:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SusanEgdamin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee, I strongly support SB2617. I know too many people who have moved away because they cannot afford housing in our own home. It is a fact that these foreigners with money have a hole in their pockets and just want a piece of Hawai'i, forcing housing rates to rise and our people unable to afford it. We have our own that have left for a better education, professional degrees and come home. But they simply can't afford the cost of a home. We need to keep our Ohana home. We shouldn't be forced to leave because foreigners place a higher bid than a local. Take care of our Ohana, our home, our aina. enough is enough

Respectfy

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:36:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Gonzales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha esteemed community members, I am submitting testimony for Bill SB 2617.

As a Kamaaina resident I fully support this bill.

My name is Nicole Gonzales and I have been a Hawai'i Island resident for over 35 years. In all those years I have seen so many foreign investors eat up Hawaiian lands to line their pockets while pushing local families out into homelessness or off the island entirely! This is a horrific tragedy, as it is our local families that uphold the values and heart of our Hawaiian Islands. I feel it has become unsustainable for our residents to have to continue to bear the unfortunate and dire circumstances that has come about by allowing foreign investors to buy up important and limited resources from our communities! It has been widely established that lack of affordable housing puts a severe mental, physical, financial and spiritual strain on any community! It is my opinion that unregulated foreign land purchasing is rapidly eating away at maintaining a healthy and connected community! I feel this bill is a step in the right direction in protecting the Aina and Lahui from further breakdown of the core values that Hawai'i so proudly stands for!

In closing, our people are struggling so desperately to hold onto their homes, and especially our Kanaka, whose lands have been stolen right out from under them. I ask that you choose our people over profit and pass this bill! I appreciate your thoughtful consideration on this matter, and am putting my faith and future in your hands!

Mahalo Nui Loa, Nicole Gonzales

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:36:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teodora Topalovski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It will help with lowering home prices and keep more homes with the local residents instead.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:37:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seiko Maamaloa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pls pass this bill! We need to save what is left of Hawaii for the locals. Stop letting foreigners come in and purchase homes in Hawaii! Thank you!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:37:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaycie Abe-Cameron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The should never happen.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:37:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayneen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not let foreigners buy Hawaii lands. Keep them in Hawaii hands. I would like my children and their children to be able to enjoy Hawaii and all it has to offer.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:37:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristyn Degracia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being born and raised in Hawaii, I support this bill so I'm able to purchase a home in Hawaii without having to compete with foreigners who get paid twice as much as people in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:38:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly urge our legislators to support this bill as it helps the people of Hawaii and our future children for generations to come. I think foreigners should be restricted from buying property here in Hawaii. I think allowing foreign investment in real estate, especially residential, can cause the market to inflate and increase prices. In Hawaii foreigners buy a lot of property, However, it makes the market very competitive and in turn makes it more expensive for locals to buy property. I think investment opportunities should be first reserved to citizens. I know in many growing countries, there are many restrictions on foreigners who are interested in investing in real estate opportunities. On the other hand, it's very easy for foreign people to take advantage of investment opportunities in the USA which doesn't seem fair. I don't think people should be able to buy up real estate here unless they're a citizen or have some sort of long term residential visa or something. I don't like the idea of Billionaires from around the world driving up our housing market to the point that it fails to even serve its original purpose because no one living here can afford to live here and have to work multiple jobs or sleep in tents and cars... Because that's the direction that we are headed in, we are on the path to destruction, but it's not too late, you can help by voting yes for this bill. Please save these precious lands for the Keiki.

Thank you,

Sally Lee

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:39:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Antone Aku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nō,

O Antone Kuuipo Aku kou inoa. Mahalo for your time. I fully and emphatically support this bill. Hawaiians are being priced out of our own lands due to outside investors and foreigners. Overcrowding our lands that have finite resources have forced many Hawaiians to leave, including my own siblings. My siblings and I are all more than half Hawaiian blood and are on the DHHL waitlist but we are still having difficulty remaining in our own home due to rising costs of real estate and a painfully slow process of DHHL to get Hawaiians back on our aina. We need desperately to remove foreign people, entities, investors from our lands and put our own people back. Without Hawaiians, there is no Hawaii! We have limited resources here on our islands and when a foreigner buys a home for an investment, that is one less home for a Hawaiian ohana or a local ohana. Mahalo nui, malama i kou ohana ou kou, iesu pu.

- Antone Kuuipo Aku

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:39:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilikea Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support not allowing foreigners to purchase land in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:39:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasen Nakahashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands .

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:39:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
U?ilani Antolin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

Please pass bill SB2617. As a native Hawaiian it is heart breaking seeing many kanakas moving away because they can't afford living on our 'Āina. It has been such a challenge for our families to find homes/properties because outsiders buy us out. The cost of living is already sky rocket ... of course it's gonna to take locals many of years to save up to purchase a home. Give us a chance to build generational wealth; Here on our homelands! Malama Pono!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:40:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria N. Puaoi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Napua Puaoi and a resident of Maui born and raised. I support this bill because a Hawaii without Hawaiians is no longer Hawaii. My kids and my mo'opuna will benefit tremendously because of this bill and I will be secured in the knowledge that they will always call Hawaii home and plant their roots for them and the future generations here at home where they belong without having to fight for their home against foreign investors.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:40:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalikolanihoikeala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617, aloha!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:41:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Able	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is NECESSARY for the sake of Hawaii's original residents. For the kupuna! For the culture! For the sake of our economy. There will never be a time to catch up (for the average hard working citizen, for the PEOPLE) What type of evil is it to only allow the rich -- access to this land? We need the people who care enough to continue to cultivate, to care, to carry on the deeper meanings of life here.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:41:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Ingbino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have lived on Oahu for 42yrs born and raised. It is very sad to see foreigners who are not from here. That have no purpose like we do and continue to teach our children the traditions that we carry from our ancestors. Allowing them to buy out our properties. Making it harder for people who were born and raised here to afford the cost of living which is already high. Making house less locals at its highest. Putting families who are from here not being able to afford because we cater to the international market. Please don't allow it to happen no more for the future of our children! To sustain the properties so the families that are from here can afford to buy houses that their grandparents were raised in!

Mahalo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:42:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Millie Machida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Millie Machida and I am a teacher from Palolo. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2617, which aims to protect affordable housing for the people of Hawaii.

Too many of my family and friends have had to leave the state because they were not able to afford housing. This bill starts to address one of the major factors that makes it near impossible for middle class families to survive and thrive here in the land of our ancestors.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:42:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill SB2617 in favor of prohibiting foreign entities from owning and purchasing land in the State of Hawaii. Hawaii residents and businesses will have no benefit from foreign investment. Allowing foreign entities to own and purchase land will cause land and housing to increase for local residents. Most of the revenue made from the foreign owned land will not go back into the state's economy and rather spent elsewhere.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:43:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime-lee Drew	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support prohibiting and preventing foreign buyers from purchasing our Hawaiian land. The State of Hawaii should make it affordable for locals, especially Native Hawaiians to afford to live in our home state.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:44:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamehanaokala Ruiz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

More kānaka need homes!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:45:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
theodore davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:46:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mercedes Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am in support of bill SB2617. As a kanaka maoli I've watched our land slip further and further out of reach from so many native people, while foreigners continue to snatch it up and for foreigners to profit from the sale of our Aina. Now, as a mother to 6 children, 4 of them recently reaching adult age (25-18) I watch them cry and mourn as them come to the realization that if this Hawai'i continues they will NEVER be able to "own" land here, NEVER be able to raise a family here, they will have to say goodbye to all that they have ever known and loved as their home.

One has already left the islands this past year at 18 to search for a better life and future because they didn't want to be a slave to working here but owning nothing. Another one of my children is leaving this month for some of the same reasons.

We cannot continue to let this happen. There is plenty of space for Kanaka Maoli if we stop letting other people purchase vacation homes, paradise rentals and other ways that they use our aina for monetary gain while we suffer. Please, please, please help us keep Hawaiians in Hawaii. Let us be a proud people ho'olaulima, malama and owning our own land again. Allow us to reclaim, grow, and cultivate our culture here at home. Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:46:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nick Crowley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, for the betterment of the people of Hawaii, pass this bill to completely change the housing market of these islands. There is a zero sum game being played by the uber-wealthy that benefits no one who lives here. It is a continuation of colonization and the erasure of the Hawaiian people. This should be easy. We all know what the problems are here and the ways to fix them. You were elected by the people to represent there demands. This demand is overwhelming. Make Hawaii for the citizens again. NOT special interests.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:46:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jarret Espiritu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill fully. As an American citizen, local hawaiian native and a combat veteran, I refuse to be "priced out of paradise". Too many families are struggling and are being forced out of their homes and local lands because foreigners are purchasing land or property as investment opportunities. Not only is this wrong in many levels but this is greed. They have no intention of living in Hawaii but only to acquire high financial benefits for themselves. This has been happening for way too long. Please get smart with the process and allow this bill to pass fully. Help the local population by giving them the opportunity to purchase homes in a affordable rate and not robbed out of their lands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:47:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larena Spalding-Poepoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The financial investment in real property tax act allows the state to get all this money so it's not a huge surprise as to why they are against this bill. Kanaka are educated and we are seeing the misuse of our lands from foreigners everyday. They say we learn our history so we don't make the same mistakes and that is what I am doing with this bill. If the past and present has taught me anything, It is to deny the selling of HAWAIIAN lands to any foreigner. The focus needs to be shifted away from selling and towards rehabilitation and protection of the land we have now. This bill will support what majority of us kanaka want and need.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:47:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheralyn M Garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617, it is time to take action against foreigners buying and exploiting Hawaii's land. I feel that only residents of Hawaii should be able to own and occupy the housing market. I fear that my children who were born and raised on Oahu are already priced out of the housing market. I myself was inky able to afford to buy in 2017 with the help of family on the mainland. Now the market is out of control and interest rates make it impossible for young local families or individuals to buy a property. Something needs to be done before there are no more local/Hawaiians left on the islands.

Thanks for your time,

Sheralyn M Garcia

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:47:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hokulani Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm opposed to SB2617 because I believe in the free market, I also do not believe that this will solve our housing problem. What we have is a supply and demand issue. The quickest way to make housing more affordable is to increase supply by reducing the amount of LUO restrictions the typical landowner has to endure. Let people build additional units on their own property without all the extreme regulation. We are the most regulated state in the country. That's the real reason why housing has always been and will continue to be so expensive.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:47:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathen Foster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a 19 year old local male born and raised in Maui. My mom is currently working THREE jobs in order to support our family. It pains me that she has to do this because of how bad the prices in Hawaii keeps increasing. As a young adult my self I'm faced with a tough decision to make; do I move to the mainland where I will no doubt live an easier and more successful life? Or do I try to stay in Maui where I will no doubt struggle but be able to stay with my family and let my kids experience everything this island and culture has to offer? Passing this bill will make it easier for locals to find more homes and ones more affordable and accustomed to their needs. It will allow the Hawaiians to stay in Hawaii. No one wants to leave but because of the modern day prices of house and rich people from the mainland purchases thousands of acres of land that they don't even need, it makes it so much more difficult for anyone here to find a home they could afford. Hawaii is no made up of only around 20% of Hawaiians; THATS JUST SAD AND NOT ACCEPTABLE! Passing this bill will make it easier for future generations of Hawaiians to be able to stay in Hawaii and raise their kids comfortably. Thank you.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:49:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jazlyn Bulatao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. Hawaiians were once to majority of this 'āina but are now becoming the minority because we are being pushed out of our own homes due to foreigners buying the land and pricing us natives out. I support SB2617!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:50:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joselyn Hollingsworth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I 100% support this bill in opposition of foreigners buying property in Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:50:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
norman kali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

this is the number 1 way to keep hawaii hawaiian.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:50:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac Wong Yuen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because the cost of living has become so ridiculous that families are forced to move out hawaii just to survive. It is absolutely ridiculous that all the property in hawaii is being bought up from outsiders and stays vacant for majority of the year. While Generations of natives struggle to find homes. This needs to stop.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:50:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bridget Napier	Testifying for Maukele Ranch LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii legislators,

I'm a fifth generation rancher in the state of Hawaii. My father and mother both passed away and one month apart in 2023. The lifestyle in which we knew growing up of ranching in Hawaii is slowly fading away.

Recently the Dole company, sold 3300 acres in Halemano Hawaii for \$45 million. This land was priced so high that no local could afford it even our ranch who currently leases the property. When I reached out to the new landowners, who are a mainland company named Woodbury corporation, they told us their plan was to subdivided to 1-20 acre parcels and sell them off for \$55,000 per farmable acre with no access ro water.

As you know, this is far too high for anyone to afford agricultural land with no water. I advocate for our ranch who had been leasing from the early 90s from Dole we were told that someone was spreading rumors about us (another local that's isn't a someone who does this legally in the livestock/cattle industry) therefore we would not be looked at as an option to continue leasing until development started, instead this mainland company is allowing a crook direct their thoughts and decisions because of greed. Today 2/5 they gave us 24 hours notice to allow someone access to the property and which we still lease to scout our leased areas with out our rep present.

They've given us six months written notice to vacate, and we have over 1000 head of cattle and nowhere for them to go with such short notice. Passing this bill and ones like it will allow locals to find mainland investors to buy land like this and put small ranchers out or business how are we to become 100% sustainable and self sufficient when our ranch and farm lands are being sold off for millions?

i've tried to advocate for our business, and any professional means possible, and have fallen short and deaf ears. The unfortunate status is locals will go and find mainline investors and become greedy and getting only what they want. Because land is too expensive for us to afford, and our own locals will price us out of the same land in which we are all trying to work towards achieving and obtaining. If this bill at least gets passed it will help us keep lands affordable for locals and local businesses investor supporting locals are not allowed then it will make this an

even more playing field for those of us who truly wanna play ball and not make a quick buck.

We want to still be able to share with our children and our grandchildren, and our great grandchildren the lifestyle which we grew up with. Day by day, that lifestyle fades and fades and fades. We strongly oppose this bill as it is making it difficult for a smaller ranchers such as Maukele fall out of the industry and not make it. We all know we are practically priced out of business.

SB2617 we strongly oppose because we want to continue to teach our children and those after them what it was that we grew up doing. At this rate, we're losing every part of what we consider our country culture for Hawaii.

Thank You,

Bridget Napier

Maukele Ranch LLC

Ranch Manager

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:51:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Wahinekapu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:51:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

As a native to Hawaii as well as a Kamehameha Schools Graduate. I have seen many generations become harder and harder for them to live and continue a life in Hawaii. Being priced out of our homelands has become too normal. I wish you folks the best of luck in sorting this out. But I truly believe, locals and native should be protected to an extent to be able to purchase land for their kids and generations further. Hawaiian homes does not guarantee that kind of ownership. Allow the ones who can afford to purchase there own to do so without the non-natives being able to outbid them.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:52:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Loomis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in favor of Bill SB2617.

It is crucial that we put an end to foreign investors who drive the cost of housing up. We need to keep our family and friends from being priced out of homes. By keeping foreign investors out of it f our housing market we be able to drive the medium price of homes down from over six figures.

We need to invest in ourselves. Stop allowing people to profit of local Hawaiians from outside of Hawaii.

Thank you!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:52:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aurene Padilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Aurene Padilla and I am a third generation kama'aina. I support this bill to stop foreign investment in Hawaii.

Hawaii is my home and there is nowhere else I would want to live. I am a public school teacher in the twenty eighth year of my career. I have only a few more years until I can retire but I do not own a home in the only place I call home. Home ownership has always been out of reach no matter how hard I work, no matter how many jobs I have worked. I fear that my children will never be able to own a home in Hawaii either.

It is imperative that we prohibit foreign investment in Hawaii and keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. Foreign investors have no tie to our home or culture. Their investments further push locals out of Hawaii.

Please pass this bill for the future of Hawaii.

Aurene Padilla

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:52:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Makepa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It's been too long that Polynesian and local residents concerns about inflated cost of homes have been overlooked and ignored.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:53:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordon Takakura-Puha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill 100%. Enough allowing outside entities to buy our land. Keep it in Hawaii for our people. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:53:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This should have been done long ago. Protect Hawaii residents!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:54:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Kitamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I worry about the majority Hawaiians of not being allowed to purchase or own property as a result of this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:54:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sharde marshall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill to stop foreigners from purchasing land or property here in Hawaii. There should also be a term set on how long someone must be a resident of Hawaii before they can buy house, land or any type of property.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:55:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei Conradt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. As a native Hawaiian and a mother, I looked at our islands and hope that my keiki and their keiki can all remain in our homelands. It is already so difficult to own land here, where I was born and raised, any possible way to make it less difficult for kanaka and locals to remain in the only home they've ever known has my support.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:55:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody varron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support foreigners buying land when our local community can no longer afford to live here. The workers need homes too. We the people of this place need homes too.
mahalo!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:57:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelique Pokipala-Kahula	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the sale of property in Hawaii to out of state buyers.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:55:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jovi Lefotu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:57:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Brissette	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a major win in curtailing the rampant housing crisis. Hawaiian lands and houses should not be in the hands of foreign investors.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:57:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kori Takaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kori Takaki and I was born and raised on the big island of Hawaii. I support SB 2617 because as a part Hawaiian born of Hawaii I understand the great struggle that our local families who were born and raised in these islands have with the idea of owning their own home. Most of our young families have very little hope of ever owning their own home. The mainland investors that have come in and purchased homes and land have taken over the dreams of our young local families, people that have been born of Hawaii and lived here all of their lives do not see a future of owning a home where they can raise their own families because the property values have been pushed up by investors. I was born in Kona and grew up my entire life there. I moved to Hilo so my children would have the opportunity of attending Kamehameha schools in 2005. I was able to buy a modest home in Hilo in 2014. 10 years later I have secured a job as a principal of a school in Kona however I have to commute daily back-and-forth to run my school because I as the principal of a school cannot afford to buy a home in Kona. Even if I sold my home in Hilo it would not be enough to purchase a home in Kona. I believe in this bill because I believe it will provide the opportunity for the families of Hawaii to remain in Hawaii and have a chance at homeownership. I hope you too will give our families a chance. Thank you.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:58:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alohi Chong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the restriction of foreign investors from taking our land. They contribute greatly to the housing crisis in Hawaii and it needs to end.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:58:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ihilani Buffett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. As a Native Hawaiian with generational ties to this land it is heart breaking to know that there are now more Native Hawaiians on the US mainland than here in Hawai'i. The foreign investors have finally succeeded in pricing Hawaiians out of our home. We can no longer afford to live here and thrive. We can no longer stay silent. NO MORE! ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! Give our native families a chance. The greed of foreign investors have happened for far too long.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:58:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sanoe Tuitele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Moving from house to house. From one area to another...

My name is Sanoe Tuitele and I grew up the area of Honolulu. Now I know you must be thinking that's quite strange that someone claimed the area of Honolulu but for me, that's how my family and I were able to stay home. At the young age I grew up in a homeless shelter that was a studio apartment that was adjacent to Honolulu Community College. I am the youngest of two older brother and parents who were both born and raised from Kalihi. My mom was Hawaiian and my dad was Samoan. We lived in this shelter for a few months and met many local families who still hold a special place in our hearts. Our time there was nearing so we moved to Halawa Housing where we lived our best childhood dreams. We had our own rooms and plenty of space, but then my mom and dad hit hard times so we moved in with my moms parents. My grandparents home was our crutch when times got tough for my parents. We then moved out and lived on Salt Lake Blvd and then back to my grandparents house.

Now...at 30 years young, my two siblings and mom still share the same roof just so we can continue to live here at Home! We currently reside in Kalihi on the outskirts of public housing and two blocks from my grandparents house. However, the neighborhood is no longer the same...we see so many Asian families buying properties and turning them into monster homes where they rent out multiple units within the home. This, makes it a challenge for local residents to stay home because our competitors on the market are not each other but foreigners who hold no steady income in Hawai'i. We as local residents always get the back burner when it comes to real-estate yet we are the ones who keep this island in motion.

This bill will help all local residents stay within their own communities and deflect us all from being a paycheck and half from living on the streets, moving to the mainland, or in my families case moving back to my grandparents house. We must do better for the people of Hawai'i and the next generation to stay home and keep Hawai'i Pono.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:58:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac Stillman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Native Hawaiians are being priced out of their own lands. This has gone on for too long. Stop allowing foreigners to buy land.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:59:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Keopuhiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Stop allowing foreigners to buy land/property here in Hawaii. Give our local families the opportunity to buy land/property here in their homelands! Let us raise our children in the same place our Kūpunas were raised! Stop filling your pockets with greed, think about the Hawaiians that are still being displaced because of these foreign land/property buyers! Everyone loves to say Aloha but yet they don't know how to show Aloha to the people of these islands!

TKeopuhiwa

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:59:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Kamiko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I definitely support this bill regarding foreign entities being unable to purchase property in the state of Hawai'i. As a native Hawaiian, it's absolutely disheartening to constantly be beaten out of rentals or property sales by people who aren't even standing in the room. I have personally been denied housing or rentals multiple times by a non-Hawaiian who was just "here for a change" while I had to then continue surviving in an abusive household. I'm hoping a bill like this will allow more native Hawaiians to stay home in the islands instead of being displaced, and the lack of foreign entities coming in may create a more affordable living space for all of us native Hawaiian residents. Mahalo!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:59:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miki'ala Pua'a-Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian born and raised in Hawai'i I support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:00:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rauchelle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The state of Hawai'i does not having a housing issue with a need for more building. We need to stop non-residents from purchasing homes here as their rental homes, which increases the cost of renting. Renting increases and is focused on the greed of money, driving out Kama'āina from trying to purchase their own land. Generations of diverse cultures have thrived here but this is not an option for most. My children will have an extremely difficult time trying to purchase land in their future as adults. Soon, these generational families will have to inherit land from family or move away; with the worse option of possibly having to live in close quarters with numerous family members, all contributing to rent, simply to remain in the islands. Although we are a state, we must honestly look at this problem with solutions for our future generations. Mom-residents should not own property in Hawaii. Many believe they should with a huge increase in property taxes, but that will not stop billionaires from purchasing as much land as possible, therefore, becoming the "majority". (1) there should be no land sold to non-residents. (1a) to become a resident to purchase land, one must live here for a minimum of 10 years, which will prove they're genuine desire to be a part of this community and our culture. (2) property taxes began when we were in the civil war. Citizens needed to contribute to that war. We are no longer in that place so property taxes should be abolished or drastically minimized for the sole purpose of emergency responders (and neighborhood dues for private neighborhoods). We need to protect the future children whose families are rooted and invested in Hawaii, which makes Hawaii what it is. The sole reason why Hawaii is special, is because of the people with Aloha, who value the culture here. Kama'āina first. We have our own Hawaii constitution which is what we should focus on. Hawaii needs to care of Hawaii, before we lose what is left.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:01:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charleston Ridings	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is my testimony on bill SB2617

Hawaii is turning into a vehicle for wealthy people not from Hawaii, not even from the same country. The fact that we allow people to come here buy big houses and rent out rooms for \$1300 is ridiculous and lazy. This has been going on way too long, not to mention the over accessive purchasing just to turn them into air bnb's. This is wrong, it's evil, it's selfish, it's greedy, its "unamerican".

Josh Green needs to do something besides writing some bs on his white board about things nobody cares about.

How did we get to this point of Chinese people walking up to homes with bags of cash to purchase a home so they can make a quick profit, no longer flipping homes they're illegally renting out rooms in homes and state allows it. Hawaii is ran ban a bunch of money hungry clowns.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:02:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Unbelievably happy that we are moving forward with this issue. I HIGHLY SUPPORT this bill. As a born and raised Native Hawaiian, a mother and a business owner in Hawaii, I can't believe how hard it is for our own people to buy/own a home here in Hawaii. This shouldn't be a problem as we are the people who live, work and breath this 'Āina every single day. We work so hard just to own our homes and set a foundation for our keiki. Nobody will love our land as much as the people who are from this land.

That being said. I strongly believe we need to put an end to foreigners buying here in Hawaii because it is making it hard for all of us who work and live here everyday. Not just during the summer. We have plenty of visitors year round that would still support all the local businesses. That will never be a problem. They will always come and visit and that's where we should leave it. They are visitors, not natives of this land. Please, from the bottom of my heart and with all of my being, please pass this bill.

mahalo nui,

Vanessa Lum

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:03:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Pilialoa Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee and Vice Chair Inouye of the senate Committe on TCA.

I stand in support of Senate Bill 2617. It is time that we start to care about Hawaii residents. We, the people of Hawaii are getting priced out and forced to live with family or to move to the continent. This bill stands in support of holding foreign buyers accountable to purchasing homes that takes away from local people and families

Mahalo for your time,

Jesse

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:03:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lani Waipa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is only so big. If we sell all of our land to non locals, what will all of our kids have in the end ? Nothing ? No more kanaka ? A'ole ! Please, we deserve this after fighting for so long and always giving but never getting in return. This is the least that the United States Government can do for us. I'm sure a lot of us will appreciate if we would be able to one day purchase more parts of land as local families to grow.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:03:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaahui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely support this. Long overdue is the understatement. Hawai'i's real estate is out of control, and Hawaiians cannot afford to live here like this.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:05:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allyson Feki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I am standing in support of this bill. I'm 36 year old Kanaka. I'm so tired of seeing our state being sold to the highest bidders. All these foreigners purchasing land and homes and driving the cost of living for our people. We have been for this bill for YEARS. The only UNCONSTITUTIONAL thing here is our own people having to move out of state for being priced out of paradise. For everyone only looking to fill their pockets with the most money you should be ashamed of yourselves. This is our Aina and it's time for our people to start moving back home to raise their keiki here.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:05:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Carter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There absolutely needs to be regulations on who can buy housing here. If you're not from the US you can't have as much free reign as a citizen would in the housing market. Simple as that. Why do we let foreign money control our already heart breaking housing market?

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:05:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In favor of SB2617 as there is a continue housing issue in the state and by not allowing regulation when buying property and allowing foreign to purchase on the island and dont even reside in these properties it take away even opportunities for local communities to have a chance at owning properties. The more the state doesnt set residency to buy properties the more our local communities will not thrive and eventually become ghost cities

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:05:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ala Kunishige	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:06:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimi Horito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is long over due. Please pass this to help the people of Hawaii stay in Hawaii. This has been done in other states so it's not "unconstitutional", in fact it's more in line with the constitutional democracy than many other bill passed without the people's voice being heard. Please open your heart and make this change so that generations to come may benefit. Aloha

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:06:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Kamau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I kako‘o (am in support of) the SB2617 Bill. Please vote in favor of this bill. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:07:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a local girl, born and raised here on Oahu. It has always been a dream of mine to raise my ohana back home on the North Shore, close to my ohana, my husband shares that dream with me as he too wishes to be closer to our aging parents. We purchased our townhouse home in Mililani 7 years ago, planning for it to be a stepping stone so we could one day be able to buy a house on the North Shore, but, with rise in prices, it's as if our dream has been erased. Prices of homes have sky rocketed with foreigners purchasing and flipping the homes and selling it down there or making it an illegal Air BNB. Not even realizing how it impacts our community, our families, and our culture. When we visit, frequently my in-laws don't really know their neighbors because its a steady rotation of people coming and going. We need to be able to have it where people of Hawai'i can stay home. Because the people are the culture, the community, the breath of Hawai'i. Foreigners say they love it here, but yet want to change all the ways, things, and life of Hawai'i. We need the people of Hawai'i to remain, so Hawai'i can thrive. It is so much more than a piece of land. We will take care of it, groom it, clean it, nourish it and love it as our ohana. Mahalo to our legislatures and Brenton Awa for pushing and working so hard for all of us. We truly appreciate it and are so grateful. Mahalo Nui Loa!!!! 

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:08:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anuhea Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB2617. I am a Native Hawaiian born and raised in Maui. Therefore I have seen first hand how our land has been sold to foreign interests and the people who live here, who make Hawaii what it is, get pushed to side...or even worse, leave. I never imagined that the reality of living in my home means I will struggle to ever have a reliable place to live. And it's not just me. I have a coworker nearing retirement. She's also her husband's caregiver, since he is unable to work due to Parkinson's. She was just told the other day that her landlord was selling the house and she'd have to find somewhere else to live. Where is she to go? The housing market on Maui is dire. Good, working people who contribute to our community have nowhere to live. But people with foreign interests and lots of money can come in here and buy up all the land, all the houses and raise the prices to make living here even more unattainable to the average working person? It's an unstable system that's bound to crumble.

And unfortunately, we're seeing this trend everywhere. Rich investors buying up homes and using them as investments to line their pockets...but that's not what a home is. A home is meant for 'ohana. Money will come and go but 'ohana is forever. If you care one iota about Hawaii, you must learn that's what Hawaiians have and will continue to value the most. 'Ohana. And I support this bill whole heartedly because it puts 'Ohana first again. I look forward to the day our children and their children will not have to struggle to live in their home...but that'll only be possible if we take action now.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:08:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanikaio Inciong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou, my name is Kanikaio Inciong, and I am a proud native of Hilo, Hawaii. Growing up in a household with my parents and four brothers, I've seen the challenges families face due to the high cost of living and limited housing options. It's heartbreaking to watch loved ones leave our island because they can't afford to stay. The soaring real estate prices make it tough for native Hawaiians like us to own land. That's why I support the measure to stop foreign principals from buying land in our state, except for minimal indirect involvement. We need to prioritize the interests of our local community and keep land accessible for Hawaiians. Requiring foreign property owners to register with the Attorney General promotes transparency and accountability. It's crucial to track and regulate land ownership. Mandating buyers to declare they're not foreign principals safeguards our local interests. We must prevent outsiders from buying up our land. The law's provision for forfeiting unlawfully acquired property shows Hawaii won't tolerate exploitation. Those who harm our community must face consequences. In conclusion, as a young native Hawaiian, I urge you to support this measure to protect our land from foreign acquisition. Let's secure a brighter future for generations to come. Thank you.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:09:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Foreigner should not be able to purchase land /home on any Hawaii island.. give us locals a chance to buy a home in Hawaii

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:09:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailiah Chong Kalima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Bill 2617 SB Relating To Real Property.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:10:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamalani Kawa'a	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Welina mai kākou! Mai ka mokupuni 'O Keawe a i Kahelelani 'o Ni'ihau. Aloha!!!
Eia nō au 'o Kamalani Kawa'a. 'O Maui kahi a'u e noho ai ma Paukūkalo, Waiehu, Maui. He mānaleo no au 'oiai ho'omaka nō ka hānai ana mai ia'u ma ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, mai ku'u wā kama'iki no ho'i. 'O Kamalālāwalu ku'u 'one hānau, ku'u kulaiwi, ka wahi a ku'u 'ohana a me ku'u mau kūpuna. This is huge! This is what we as kanaka have been waiting and longing for. We've been waiting for the day that someone, somewhere would take action and I am blessed to be able to witness this day. I am native Hawaiian, born and raised here on Mauinuiakama. This will give us hope. This will give us a chance to fight back and rightful take back what is ours, what belongs to us. Our future keiki will not have to worry about the white man coming here and doing what they do best, take our land. No 'āina, no po'e kanaka. No po'e kanaka, no Hawai'i. How can you have Hawai'i without having its people? Without having Hawaiians? This bill needs be pushed forward and I support this bill 100%. E ola mau nā kupa o ka pae 'āina 'O Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:10:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayleen Barino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A majority of us who have only known Hawai'i as home are continually reminded of the numerous issues locals and the Hawaiian community continually face on a daily basis. Problems like the rising cost of living, lack of affordable housing and the displacement of Hawaiians are just a few of the plethora of problems that resulted when foreigners were wrongfully allowed to purchase land in Hawai'i. Prohibiting foreigners from further purchasing land in Hawai'i is essential and the absolute first step we must take in providing meaningful, long term solutions for the people of Hawai'i and generations to come. Passing this bill will pave the way for the families and children of Hawai'i to continue to call Hawai'i home without being a paycheck away from being houseless, unnecessarily relying on government assistance just to feed their children or feeling the need to move away just to reach financial stability and have a better quality of life for their family. When this bill is passed we will be more equipped in providing strategic, smart solutions that directly benefit both Hawaiians and the people of Hawaii whom called this place home for generations.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:13:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Uyeunten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Patti Uyeunten fully support the stop of foreigner's/non-residents buying homes here in Hawai'i. Prices have skyrocketed these past few years, beyond the already expensive cost of living here. I pray our children will be able to buy homes here one day.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:15:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dusty Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm submitting my support for the proposed bill SB2617 which shall Prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest. Defines foreign principal. Requires a foreign principal that owns real property that was acquired before this measure's effective date to register the ownership with the Attorney General. Requires a buyer of real property to provide a signed affidavit attesting that the buyer is not a foreign principal. Authorizes the forfeiture of real property or an interest in real property that is owned or acquired unlawfully. Establishes penalties. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025. Appropriates moneys. The continued allowance for foreigners to attain real estate In Hawai'i is just one of the issues that keeps moving the goal of owning further out of reach for the peoples of the state of Hawai'i. Prohibiting foreign investors from buying is one piece of the puzzle to giving Hawai'i families and peoples a better opportunity to home/land ownership than in our island home. Allowing foreign investors to not have to live here and pay the state resident taxes like the peoples/residents of Hawai'i increases our portion of an ever rising tax situation, essentially leaving up to us as residents to "foot the bill". This model only favors the foreigners investment while we are left with the bill and decreases our opportunities to make a sensible living. The price of paradise should be extended to all comers of this land...or stop them from coming, plain and simple.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:15:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristine Donayri	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Given the housing crises in Hawai'i, foreigners shouldn't be allowed to purchase property. The local people who've been here and the Hawaiians who have lineage dating back hundreds of years, struggle to buy their own property. Being of Hawaiian descent, I want to raise my family here but fear I won't be able to afford it. Hawaiians shouldn't be priced out of Hawai'i. Without Hawaiians there is no Hawai'i. I support this bill and hope for more bills in the future that prioritize the generational families of Hawai'i!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:15:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonja Corrigan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill preventing foreigners (non-US residents) from purchasing real estate in the state of Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:16:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dane Hina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a native Hawaiian citizen of Hawaii. Ever since my earliest childhood memory from the early 90's I can remember having to watch my pure native Hawaiian grandparents struggle as they moved our family from house to house while rent was raised out of their price range from foreign landlords/entities! Not having the same opportunities of employment or further education my grandparents were in the lower class when it came to family income, left with only social security past the ages of 60 and 65 my grandmother was forced to continue her employment as a gas station attendant while my grandfather was not physically fit for work. Time came to show that their income was not enough to sustain sufficient housing with the cost of real estate on the constant rise. After many failed attempts to obtain their own piece of property due to being out bid by other parties, our family was moved from the shores of mokuieia to further inland to the plantations of Waialua, then further inland to the plantations of whitmore, then further inland to the cities of wahiawa and Waipahu, until our family had nowhere left to go. My grandfather was an honest man who made his living through masonry work, and although he was a skilled tradesman he had difficulty and adversities through foreign companies coming in and taking most of the contracted work as well as foreign workers to make up for the growing demand of housing and development! This problem pushed my family out of any chance to owning any real piece of Hawaiian land, even though they were on the Hawaiian homes waiting list for more than 20 years at the time. And this was in the year 2000. It's even harder in this day and age. I now am a 33 year old skilled tradesman head of household for a family of 4 I work 40-80 hours a week and make just over 100k a year and I do not qualify to purchase a home in today's rate and price range due to inflation. I see Hawaiian families forced to leave the state in order to make a decent living and provide for their ohanas, and I see Hawaiian families forced out on the streets because they have no place to go. If the housing and real estate continues to be sold to the highest bidders which will be foreigners or foreign entities like it has been and the gentrification process continues, then I will have no choice but to uproot my family from our homeland, the land of our ancestors, the land where my children's parents reside, in struggling times, a time where neither I nor my children's grandparents have the extra means of income to support visits from here to the mainland and vice versa! I will be faced with a devastating choice, to uproot my family for a chance at a better life and potentially sever the cord of interaction with my children and their elderly grandparents for good, or struggle to put food on the table for my family! And I am not the only one who is in this predicament! Hundreds of thousands are faced with this choice right now and hundreds of thousands had to have already made this heartbreaking choice! For what??? Investments and monetary gains?? A vacation home for a foreign family to spend summers here or winter when it's a little colder than comfort where they normally reside? We are all of the

human race! And a lot of us are struggling just to survive, while doing everything possible and more!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:17:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luana Keakealani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:17:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystale Cayaban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. We need solutions to stop the rapid rise of housing here in Hawai'i. Way too many Hawaiians have fallen victim to the high housing cost and have had to move away from the land and culture they call home. Help Hawaiians stay in their homeland!

Mahalo,

Crystale Cayaban

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:17:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Roback	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of SB2617. Our priority should be keeping our own people home where they belong. The survival of our culture depends on it!!

Mahalo

Ikaika Roback

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:18:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in support of bill SB2617. I support that foreigners should not be able to purchase land in Hawai'i. The local families cannot afford to live here and are being driven away by the cost of living which is being contributed to by many foreigners buying land and homes here in Hawai'i. Most nations across the world do not allow foreign investments and purchases of homes and land it should be the same ways for us here in Hawai'i. I hope that you will see fit to cooperate and push this bill forwards for the betterment of the people of Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:19:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ISAAC NAHUEWAI	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Isaac 'ika'aka Nahuewai and I am in strong support of this LONG OVERDUE BILL.

As a Native Hawai'ian PhD student, we are taught how these kinds of bills help the indigenous of that land such as Māori's recently in Aotearoa and Palau. This is a crucial step in the direction, as we are also taught in our University of Hawai'i system that the Hawaiian Kingdom has never lost its power by illegal annexation from a Joint Resolution. This is a step and I fully support it.

na'u nō me ka 'oia'i'o me ke akua mai,

na 'ika'aka nāhuewai

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:21:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Malepeai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou, for the glory of God, and the good of his people. The people of Hawai‘i need to be protected from foreign buyers and foreign influence, Kānaka ‘ōiwi need this protection. To say that blocking foreign buyers is unconstitutional is to believe in the positive rights of those who are not citizens of this country, or people of these islands. Furthermore, people of these islands should be the first to exercise their rights of owning property. Therefore, keep perpetuating righteousness in this land. As a Kānaka ‘Ōiwi, I say, pass this bill! Soli Deo Gloria!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:21:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamesy Figueroa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will allow more access to local families, hopefully, native Hawaiian families to purchase property and remain in Hawaii. What is Hawaii without Hawaiians?! We have an obligation to make Hawaii affordable to its native people. This bill will open the path for this to happen. Mahalo nui loa.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:23:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Wahinekapu-Gorman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to prohibit foreign sales of Hawai'i land/property.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:23:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Makana Haili, Wai Sung, Hirayama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. I am 34 years old born and raised on Oahu. I have been fortunate to grow up on a property and in a house that my grandmother had blessed my parents with. I can only hope that one day i can afford to purchase my own property and home here in Hawaii so i may grow and raise my own family here. Sadly this hope seems more and more unattainable as the days go by as the land is lost to foreign buyers who drive prices higher and higher. Aloha and thank you for hearing my voice.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:25:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Kalahiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to end foreign people to buy out Hawaii. The Hawaiian people from these islands are being priced out. People cannot afford to live here or have homes to pass down to their children because of military people using their V.A. Loans to purchase property in Hawaii and then using that property to rent out to Hawaiians at a higher price than their mortgage is worth. It's not fair. These lands belong to Hawaiian blood. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. End of story!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:25:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapulei Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB2617 because it is overdue that we truly prioritize the native and local people of our islands, especially when it comes to housing and having land.

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:25:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
La'akea Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Enough is enough. We've been saying it since day 1. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:25:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allegra Scribner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a born and raised Kaua'i girl, coming from a long line of generations on Kaua'i (Kanna family). I always knew that I would want to raise my family here, how I was raised and how those who came before me were raised- with respect for the people, ocean, and land of our special island. Perpetuating our unique culture, nurturing it and protecting it. But with outsiders buying our land, it makes the possibility of lifelong residents buying property near impossible, and it allows for an influx of foreigners who do not care for our culture to begin to shift our culture to their own.

From the time I was in highschool (less than 15 years ago) until now, I have been shocked at what Kaua'i is becoming: a hot spot for the ultra wealthy who do not care to be part of the island, they only want the island to serve them and their purposes.

I have experienced this firsthand in the new kukuiula estate area- one evening my friends and I drove up and parked on a large, empty grassy hillside to watch the swell coming in below. We weren't listening to music, drinking, or doing anything besides leaning on the truck and watching the waves break. No more than 5 minutes later, security pulls up and demands that we leave. I was appalled and angry. I'm not allowed to be on the land I was born and raised on? Just my presence- the car I drive, my appearance- is enough for security to be called to remove me from an empty plot of land? That is the mindset of the foreigner buying land in Hawai'i. Please, let's put Hawai'i's lands back into Hawai'i's hands, before we no longer have the rich Hawai'i that we treasure and call home.

Mahalo nui loa for your time.
Allegra Kanna Scribner

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:25:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leia M Latronic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should only allow citizens of this country have the right to buy land here in Hawaii. Foreigners should have to go through many time permits and obstacles to be able to buy land. Its not easy for us to buy in their country. So why do we make it easy for them? I strongly support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:26:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a kanaka maoli, a resident of Hawai'i. I have lived here all my life and I wholeheartedly support SB2617. Changes need to be made. We need to stand together, in support of prohibiting foreigners buying our Hawaiian lands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:28:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
skye darnell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Far too many friends and family have moved out of the state because they cannot afford to buy our even rent housing. While i understand real estate is a lucrative market, allowing outsiders to the state to buy property, significantly compromises three communities we live in because of lack of aloha that Hawaii residents inherently know and give. Please support this bill

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:28:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charaiya yacapin-naweli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel with the wages and inflation in Hawaii and how locals are being displaced from there land that our sacred land should not be given away. I support this bill

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:29:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamar Bee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. Foreign interests in real estate in Hawaii drive our home prices up which, in turn, continue to push out the local residents and contribute to our housing crisis. Please put our people first!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:29:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Viliani Haunga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am for this bill. This will give more local families that were born and raised in Hawaii be able to afford to buy property or homes on the islands that they were born and raised.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:30:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill SB2617 which is indeed Long Overdue! Native Hawaiians as well as other locals can no longer afford to live in their generational homes in the State of Hawaii. Government officials need to stop selling out the Native Hawaiian people to the highest bidders. We need to put a stop to wealthy developers, real estate conglomerates, water thieves, land barons, & the global elite placing million dollar profits before the people of Hawaii. This ridiculous greed will be the end of the true essence of Hawaii. It's already starting to look like California on the South & West sides of Maui! This bill will start the process of saving our island home before it's too late. Please do what is right for once! Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands!

Mahalo,

Richard Ho

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:30:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We already have enough people buying from out of state . We don't need foreigners buying from out of country. Foreign buying needs to be stopped

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:30:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I believe Hawaii has the beauty and energy of no other state. The power of the Aina is respected by locals and should be preserved by locals. Hawaii is being over run by foreigners. Time to step up and protect hawaiiis natural order. God Bless

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:30:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekuulani Keahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kekuulani Keahi from Lahaina Maui. I am in support of bill SB2617 because of the fact that if we continue to allow people to come and buy up all the land and all the homes, where are we supposed to go? By allowing these entities to continue throwing their money around to buy up our homeland, this forces us out because the taxes go up and we can no longer afford to stay here. This is our HOME, our KULA IWI, our 'ĀINA!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:32:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabelle York	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a full time Hawaii resident, over the years I have seen and felt the effect from the lack of infrastructure within the housing market. It is time for limitations on foreign buyers. We need to put our residents best interests first. Pass this bill, it is time for a change, to try something new to save our homes and land. The path that we have been going down regarding the economy and housing is not proven to be a good one.

mahalo

mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:33:07 PM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Dandrea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to prohibit any foreign entities from purchasing any property of any type in the state of Hawai'i. Residents of 10 years or more should be the only people allowed to purchase property here in Hawai'i. With the extreme shortages of homes and the mismanagement of so many commercial properties it is imperative to keep Hawai'i's lands in Hawai'i's hands.

Every property currently owned by a mainland or foreign entity should be sold immediately unless the owners are full time residents. If you can't get them to sell then they need to be taxed tremendously. Those taxes should be put in a fund to help Hawaiians and locals get homes and businesses.

also an idea to any foreign entity that uses Hawaiian words or names for their businesses should have to pay an extra tax or fee that goes into a fund to help Hawaiians and locals start businesses. We need to help our community first.

I was born and raised in Haiku Maui and it is so sad to see what's happening to the islands. A change is needed and this is a good step in the right direction.

thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions or ways that I can help with ideas and support.

mahalo,
Alana dandrea

28 Laupapa place

haiku, hi 96708

8082699347

adandrea@hawaii.edu

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:33:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dane Pacheco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of banning foreigners from buying land in Hawaii. We already don't have enough land for the people of Hawaii, why would we let our precious lands go to foreign hands.

Mahalo,

Dane

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:33:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protect our land

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:35:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please!! We need this bill! We've been robbed of our land and culture and it's still going on today. Right in front of us and left with very little power to fight. This bill may help with that!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:37:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hinarava	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Hinarava Carlmark, and I support this bill. As a Native Hawaiian and Tahitian, I believe this bill is a huge step towards us gaining back our sense of purpose and unity. For hundreds of years Native Hawaiians have taken loss after loss and I believe it has divided us as a community. This could be the omen of hope that all of us could use and begin to unite us so that we may stand as one to fight for our culture. The aina has provided for all of us Polynesians and in return we take care of it. It would be of great importance to get Hawaiian lands back into Hawaiian hands.

Mahalo. Mauruuru roa.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:37:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candice Nozaki-Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill! The Hawaiian people should have first claim to the land that their ancestors have lived on for generations before! Hawaiians didn't understand the concept of land ownership when Kamehameha III enacted the "Great Mahele." They believed the gods owned the land and if they took care of the land and its resources, the gods would take care of them. Hawaiians not owning land, put on a list to wait and pass and not get any land or home, its discouraging for our future keiki!

our keiki that is our future, they will not be able to own land unless their 'ohana already has land to pass on to them.

Hawaii is not Hawaii without "all the local people" that make Hawaii so unique with our traditions, food, and stories.

We need to make the land available to the local people, not foreigners. Foreigners are the reason Hawaiians don't have land.

we need to put something in place to help out people and the future generations. I support this bill that will help our people get ties back to the land!

mahalo for making a difference for our future!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:38:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Walt Grilho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to stop and prevent foreigners from purchasing property here in Hawai'i. This is our home as kanaka maoli and I will not stand for continuing to price us kanaka out of or home here in Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:38:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emi Lei Gibson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Emi Lei Gibson. I'm from Kailua, Hawaii. I am in support of this bill to protect those Hawaiian residents to be able to have an opportunity to continue to live here at home and raise our families here.

Many of us work very hard in several jobs just to make it here financially. Especially to afford to purchase a home.

Its time for our local Leaders to stand for us, the Hawaiian people. To have affordable homes, to continue to honor our islands by caring for where we live, and to keep Investors, or other Nationals from other countries to not be allowed to buy homes here in Hawaii. Mahalo to those who continue to represent us, who live here and have Roots here...

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:39:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brynn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

People not from Hawaii should not be able to purchase in Hawaii!! Only people of Hawaiian blood and those born and raised should have the right! Money ain't everything! If this bill gets passed, it gives us people buying power and will force prices to go down. It's time we TEND to our own, not to those with the money and NO TIES to Hawai'i!!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:40:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Imelda Arick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My testimony is against this bill. The Hawaiian property that is being sold or built on should only be owned by the people who are citizens of Hawaii before the fires. Don't let outsiders be greedy!!!! It's unfair to those who owned the property originally.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:40:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill for no more foreign land purchases

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:41:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapua Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. We need to do more to ensure that our people can afford to live here and gain ownership of land without foreign entities competing and driving up the prices.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:41:26 PM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ciara Lindsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2617, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

PROHIBITS FOREIGN PRINCIPALS FROM ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE OR ANY INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE, EXCEPT A DE MINIMUS INDIRECT INTEREST.

IN STRONG SUPPORT

Welina mai e Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees,

My name is Ciara Lindsey; I am Native Hawaiian and a resident of Hawai‘i Island.

I am testifying **in strong support** of bill SB2617 which prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest.

According to the 2020 census, 55% of the more than 680,000 Native Hawaiians in the U.S. are living away from our ancestral homelands, the place that so uniquely defines the beauty of our people, our culture, and our space on this honua (planet) (hpr.org).

Challenged by over-tourism, grotesque real estate prices, the highest cost of living in the nation, and militarization, more Native Hawaiians are being displaced and seeking economic refuge in the form of affordable housing and income opportunities outside Hawai‘i.

Keep in mind that Native Hawaiians are the second lowest income earning population in Hawai‘i (hawaiibusiness.com). Despite this, Native Hawaiians are forced to compete with foreign investors, second-home owners, and recent settlers, for the few to no housing options available. Think of the level at which this competition exists - from the ultra-rich who are buying up huge swaths of land, to the mega-rich who are driving up housing prices across the islands, to the fantasy-land “influencer” who takes up space for a bit to up their social value. All while displacing Native Hawaiians from their ancestral homelands.

Other states enacted a foreign ownership law in the 2023 legislative session including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia.

So the argument that such laws are ‘unconstitutional‘ should be dismissed based on the fact that several other states have enacted similar laws.

Me ke aloha,

Ciara Lindsey

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:41:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ginger Amaral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am in strong support of SB2617! Hawaii is a treasured place but losing its shine. It's a shame to see foreign investors buying up all the housing or land and in return sell it for double to locals or U.S citizens. Have we not such a special place it be a different story but we need to keep it special.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:42:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daisy Kalopodes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that Hawaiians should be the only people to purchase land in Hawai'i to preserve our culture and people. It should actually be the opposite of how Hawaiian homestead is where we have Hawaiians able to purchase and live all over the island and a small portion of foreigners on a waitlist waiting to purchase a home. It should be Haole homestead instead.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:42:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennie Pihana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Jennie Pihana

Strongly Support the "Long Overdue" Bill (SB2617)

Aloha,

My name is Jennie Pihana and I fully support the "Long Overdue" Bill (SB2617). As a native Hawaiian woman who was born and raised on Oahu Island, I have witnessed numerous foreign developments over the past 10 to 15 years. These developments have attracted foreign buyers and caused our housing markets to rise, which has resulted in native people having to move out of the state or face greater difficulty in becoming homeowners.

I firmly believe that the "Long Overdue" Bill will help keep out foreign investors and developments, allowing us to live and thrive in our own state without being pushed out by external forces. Also, I believe this bill may create meaningful change in our communities, our island, and help our people prosper in our home state.

Please consider passing this bill

Mahal nui,

Jennie Pihana

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:43:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makoa Leialoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Makoa Leialoha support this bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:43:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karol Piechnik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bretanova for governor of Hawaii!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:43:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB2617. I have lived on Oahu my entire life and even with working a full time job, I've found it difficult to purchase a home or apartment. I am sick to see all the new high rises being built in the Kakaako area and being purchased by foreign investors. I fear that my two daughters will not be able to purchase homes or apartment units when they grow older. Please put a stop to foreign investors purchasing property in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:43:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allen Artaho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to stop non native/foreign investors from purchasing land/homes in our state. Causing the prices to go up and forcing locals to leave (priced out of paradise). Our Hawaiian race is already depleting, and if don't do anything to keep our local families here then it won't be Hawaii just labeled as Hawaii

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:44:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy bazan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write as a part-Native Hawaiian woman born and raised on Maui. I've recently lived in Northern California for 6 years. In that time, I witnessed properties becoming increasingly overpriced. The reason given by many of my friends who lost bids on homes: Chinese nationals who bid above asking and pay cash. This housing inflation seen in such a large state as California is exaggerated in our home, Hawaii. Our land is precious, limited, sacred. We must end foreign buying up of Hawaii if our posterity is to have any chance of remaining in their homeland. We have known for years now that affording to live in Hawaii-even with above average-paying jobs is becoming increasingly difficult. We need this bill now. We are not re-inventing the wheel. Other states and countries have these protective laws. Mahalo for your consideration. God, help us all.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:45:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iwalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I, Iwalani Higa support this bill that will better the current housing situation in Hawaii.

For years, the State has failed its people and single handedly made it unlivable for locals.

The solution is simple. Stop allowing people from outside of the State to purchase this land. Especially people who do not live in this Country.

We all know this is wrong and there is no reason to spell it out for you.

The reason we have elected officials is so that they can do what is right for the people. Fight for us. But instead, they are failing us.

Please, for once, do what is right. Make a drastic change for the betterment of the people of Hawaii.

Let the people take their land back.

mahalo,

Iwalani Higa

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:45:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Kaohelaulii-Brett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I'm a native Hawaiian from Kāne'ohe. Our people are being pushed out of Hawai'i and soon our keiki won't be able to afford to stay here in Hawai'i anymore because of the housing crisis. Back in 2013 when I was pregnant with twins we started looking for a home. Left and right, everytime we'd make an offer we were constantly up against investors who were cash buyers! After 5 offers fell through, we thought there was no chance in owning a home! Our last offer was made to an elderly Hawaiian lady who picked us and didn't choose the 3 other cash buyers coming in at the same time. My 'ohana was super fortunate enough to buy our small 750sf townhouse, barely getting by, we used some of our 401k as first time home buyers to put a down payment on this house and she chose us! The reason why she chose us was due to my heartfelt letter that I wrote to the seller with my personal story of how I just lost my baby recently and we were looking for a new start. As I reflect on our past buying situation, there are so many more kānaka and locals from Hawai'i trying to get housing and they keep getting priced out! How can we compete?! My husband and I currently work good paying tech jobs and there's absolutely NO way we can afford a single family home in Kāne'ohe lately because either we're blocked by foreign investors coming in with cash or we can't afford 1mil+ mortgages! There are a total of 8 units directly around us in our complex and there are only 2 of us who own our units, the rest were all bought by foreign investors from Japan or China that don't even live here. They jack up the rent price and they don't tend to the homes to ensure they're renting it to good people. It's just really driven down the quality of this area since we moved in.

In closing, please I beg of you for our future generations of keiki to please consider us that can't find housing or having a hard time trying to buy property up against people who have a lot of money, or those that had to move away from Hawai'i, that we still exist and **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE** through this bill! You can give people a chance to **STAY** here and thrive versus survive. Stop selling off our lands to these investors that don't even live here half the time. Stop pushing out our people for their benefit. Mahalo nui for listening and if anything, please do this for the next generation!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:46:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bridget Butler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am submitting my testimony in full support of Brenton Awa's bill to stop foreigners from buying land in Hawai'i. The time is now to put lands back into the mālama of kanaka maoli, and kama'āina. The amount of land that is up for grabs and has been up for grabs to outside investors should have been outlawed decades ago. When these kind of transactions for land/ money comes at the expense of the people of this land then we have lost vision of what is truly important in the aloha state and the state motto we say we stand by. We have allowed corporate gain and greed to come before the people of Hawai'i and now is the time to reverse that and put the lāhui and love for its citizens first.

Ua Mau Ke 'Ea o ka 'Āina i Ka Pono!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:46:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trina Purdy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We the people of Hawaii already have a housing crisis. Allowing foreigners to continue to purchase properties here in Hawaii just will continue to be an issue for our own and force our families to move away from the islands. Hawaii will one day become a state where not one Hawaiian lives here. Why? Because there are no housing to house our own people!!! Stop being selfish and start thinking about our own! Put our people first!!!!

Mahalo,

Trina Purdy

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:48:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou,

Kimeona Kane of Waimānalo, where we too, are being out priced by foreign interests who hide behind various loopholes to acquire lands. This courageous effort to ensure that Hawai'i people have a chance to stay in Hawai'i is what is necessary and it is so true, we are long over due to act. I strongly urge you to make this our reality and lessen the burden we must bare to stay home in Hawai'i. Mahalo nui for your support.

Kimeona Kane

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:48:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadia ikeda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Prices to live AT HOME is getting too expensive. The local people, especially the Hawaiians, NEED this.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:50:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Byrnes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure which I believe is a step toward long term affordability for the housing market in the state of Hawaii. My support for this bill is in the hopes that we put local family's ability to thrive ahead of profits, by reigning in the drastic escalation in house prices caused in part by foreign buyers seeking investment opportunities.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:50:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fane tonga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please no more selling to foreign.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:51:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benel Piros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill due to it having a positive impact to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:51:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Puuoneomakapuu Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou!

I write today in SUPPORT of SB2617 which "Prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State".

As a Native Hawaiian, born and raised here in Hawai'i, I would like to first recognize that I am extremely fortunate to be able to still reside here in Hawai'i, my home.

With that, I acknowledge that I am only able to do so because I am currently a Hawaiian Homes lessee (of which I received from my late father, whom also received his lease from his late parents). And so we represent three generations connected to this aina, our aina (which is provided via a homestead lease).

However, it is important to note that my ohana and heritage does not stop at the aforementioned property, or just the three generations. My ohana and roots spans many more generations and aina here throughout Hawai'i.

Sadly, the spread of my ohana also reaches the continental U.S. I am one of six children in my ohana. 4 of 5 of my siblings have all relocated to the continent and not by choice. They have all now relocated because they could no longer afford to remain here to raise their own ohana/keiki. The dream of owning homes, while making livable wages, and not struggling was all but lost here. Most of them have relocated and have successfully become homeowners elsewhere, yet unable to do so here in their home state. Should we rejoice in such great life milestones achieved by our loved ones afar? Sure. But, why do they need to move away to be able to achieve this? Truly disheartening.

I believe that a big part of the reason is that outsiders and foreigners coming in and buying up available lands and properties rob our native peoples of such opportunities to remain here at home. These buyers have no ties or roots to this aina. They cannot trace their ohana lineage for generations.

With this said, I support this bill as it provides a means to help keep our people here at home. I support this bill to help bring our people home. I support this bill to help keep what makes Hawai'i, Hawai'i. Hawai'i is not Hawai'i without its people. So 'a'ole foreign buyers and investors!

Mahalo,

Puuneomakapuu Johnson

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:53:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekahu Napoleon-Ahn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bill: SB2617

Position: SUPPORT

Aloha My name is Kekahu Napoleon-Ahn and I am testifying in favor of bill SB2617.

I am writing this testimony in favor of bill SB2617 due to the lack of policy's in place that help the people of Hawaii afford homes in Hawaii. I was born and raised on the island of Oahu but fear that may not be an option when I have children if we do not put bills like SB2617 in place. I could never imagine living somewhere else and hope I never have to make that decision. Hawaii as we all know is limited in space, if we have no policy's in place to prevent foreigners from buying property than the people of Hawaii will continue to be pushed out of our homes. Any one who opposes bill like these do not truly have the best interest of the people of Hawaii in mind.

Thank you for your time and I do hope my Support of SB2617 will help in getting this bill passed

Mahalo,

Kekahu Napoleon-Ahn

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:55:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Gumm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Locals are no longer able to afford living in the state, Hawaiians are being displaced of their own land.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:55:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Christopher Mamuad and I support SB2617. We are already overpopulated and need to take control. People who have been born and raised in our own state cannot buy a home here 1 because we have been priced out of our home and 2 because there isnt enough homes. We dont need more developments. We need control. Putting control on Foreign Buyers will be a good start to having control of the price of our homes and the influx of people here. This has proven to work well in New Zealand and I strongly feel this will help us in Hawai'i.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:55:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesika H.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and DO NOT want to see any more foreign buyers buy more property in the State of Hawai'i. Too many locals are being priced out of paradise and it needs to stop!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:58:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kessel Kua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. Our local families deserves to be housed first!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:58:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This has pushed too many locals to move out of state, as well as make it extremely difficult for local families to be able to afford to live in their state of birth. Far removed from Hawaiian culture and traditions due to the high cost of living, local families risk losing their identity. This is deeply impactful on our nation's individuality, therefore we must protect our local families and do whatever we can to make living here for us affordable. Mahalo. -Brendan C.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:58:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrienne Kawabata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm a 33 year old married mother of one. We work full time and fall somewhere in the middle class but have struggled to purchase a home in a location that makes sense for us. We want more availability of property for the local people. The money needs to stay here in our state, not someone who vacations here for a few weeks a year but takes up real estate. It's not fair and we support this bill

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:00:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariah Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the act of prohibiting any person that is not of this land, culture, and blood from buying, owning, and selling any land.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:00:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Alvarado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm on the verge of making that hard decision to uproot my ohana and move to the mainland because it is nearly impossible to find affordable housing let alone to purchase a home. I'm born and raised in Hawaii and also a Native Hawaiian. I work 60+ hours a week and still find it hard to make ends meet for my ohana of 5. To continue to allow foreign purchasers buy up our land in Hawaii not only prohibits our local community to thrive but also takes away from our working class which directly effects our tourism economy. Who will be left to show the true ALOHA spirit that Hawaii is known for? Why are we not looking out for the best interest of our local community and ensure that they can continue to work and LIVE here in Hawaii when we allow the interests of foreign purchasers scoop up all these properties to turn around and make a profit but not have that profit continue to recycle within our community. Please do that right thing and STOP allowing this.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:01:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimi Hernandez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are no homes for HAWAIIANS. No homes for KAMA'ĀINA. Take care of the people of this place first and make us a priority! Make Hawai'i attainable for locals!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:02:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kysha Rae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Foreigners from purchasing land should also include the u.s foreigners...

KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS IN HAWAIIAN HANDS

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:02:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachael Malapit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Attorney general,

In regards to your opposition to sb2617, You're concerns as to the violations to the 14th amendments and the equal protection and do process clauses are understandable. I am aware that the PASS act is still in consideration for federal enactment And many interested parties are still tracking the development of the case, Shen v Simpson. The decision of the supreme court in SB 264 We'll have a huge precedence on whether or not other there States bills of similar language will be nullified.

My concern is that it may be several years before a final resolution is made by the Supreme Court.I do not feel that Hawai'i has the capacity to wait for Federal and constitutional law languages to be reexamined and revised- in regards to foreign partnerships and interests. The federal landscape regarding foreign investment in real estate continues to evolve.

My concern as a citizen of hawaii, and one of hawaiian descent, Lies mostly in the protection of agricultural land versus real estate. The language in this bill is stated as "real property," in which that includes Private and public lands designated as agricultural use. With that being said, According to the AFIDA (Agricultural Foreign Investment Act), Almost 41 million acres of agricultural land in the US is fully or partially owned by foreign entities, or 3% total of U. S agricultural land. Since 2017, Purchase of land by foreign entities has increased at a rate three percent annually. According to the AFIDA annual report in 2021, Hawai'i has the second largest percentage of foreign-held US agricultural land. Of that, 9% is privately held. This is approximately 171,108 acres on all islands that is foreign-held. The Netherlands alone holds nearly 38,000 acres of land on Hawai'i Island, mainly pasture land. That is a percentage taken from the 761,000 acres of land currently used for grazing An article by the, Civil Beat, states that there are only 4.1 million acres of Hawai'i lands that are currently used for agricultural purposes, even though half of Hawaii's lands are designated ag. This is due to many factors such as; fallow lands, sloped areas, and land without the necessary infrastructure. At this rate, foreign land ownership of ag land could surpass land ownership by Internationals, let alone farmers of Native Hawaiian descent. Some might say That foreign investment adds to the economic development in the US, But if you consider that the cattle industry is one of our top agricultural products in Hawai'i, topping off at 59.8 million dollars in profit per year, who is mainly benefiting here? Furthermore, they're has not been enough. Statistics or data to support the idea that foreign investments has caused a spike in real estate or land values. But, If we start to see a rise in the individuals who are in the market for agricultural land, the greater, the demand will be.

Thus, increasing the price due to its limited supply. I believe this demand is likely to grow, as I see more federal investments being made towards supporting future farmers.

I am nothing more than the daughter of a coffee farmer's daughter in the hills of Kealakekua Hawai'i, but I care about my future and the future of the next generation of family-owned farms. Small business can likely not compete with foreign investors.

Currently, climate change, the results of the pandemic, and other global events are highlighting the important of local food production and sustainability. As citizens of the United States. I believe that we have the rights to protect our immediate interests and the interests of our community members.

Mahalo for your time.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:02:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill due to us locals being priced out of Hawai'i that we call our home, this is where our roots is and it saddens me to see us locals having to leave home to make a living else where in the mainland due to foreigners buying homes here takes away from us. Help our people instead of always trying to take away from us, stop allowing history to repeat itself. Now is the time to stand up especially our people to come together and make this happen for the betterment of us locals being able to own a home in our Hawai'i that we can keep for generations to past down to our keikis. Hawai'i isn't a playground to keep letting foreigners take advantage of our resources and what Hawai'i has to offer, we're talking about our home, our way of living, our roots, culture, history and our Aloha etc. Keep our Hawai'i alive and pono.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:02:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani Enos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Give the Hawaiian people a chance to own a piece of our island before letting all these outsiders invade. At the rate we're going no Hawaiians will live in Hawaii in the future. Support our native people.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:03:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikala Deblake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We only have so much land to give on our small islands. The last thing that these lands should go to are foreign buyers when they don't even live here. Too much of our own people are being pushed out. These lands could go to helping Hawaiians thrive in our homelands rather than selling them out. I know this won't fix the big issues but it is a big step in the right direction.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:03:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Dudoit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support legislation that would keep foreigners from buying land in Hawai'i. To live on an island where I see increased numbers of individuals from outside of Hawaii buying land with incomes that they earned elsewhere--incomes that provide more than enough of a livable wage from where they come--is very disheartening. The majority of local residents here on my island do not get paid enough to so easily buy property. We work so hard, yet we can't afford the exorbitant costs of homes and properties without taking very large risks nor earning enough to live in comfort with a large mortgage. However, I have witnessed people coming here from the mainland, buying the limited homes we have available on our small island, flipping them and renting them out. Why?-- Because they can afford it. They get paid more where they're from, and their cost of living is lower. Therefore, they can afford to swoop in and buy up our precious real estate...no, our home. What does that leave the people of this place. We're now paying the high rent that mainlander is charging for a home they only bought as an investment for passive income. We want to buy our house to make HOMES for our families. We will forever be wanderers in our own land who are at the mercy of those who get paid more than our Hawaii economy can provide for us....even we, who are hard-working contributors to our communities and society as a whole are at the mercy of this flawed system that works against the everyday people of Hawaii. It is time to protect the interests of those of us whose families have been here for generations, and to stop allowing the hard-working people of Hawaii to be overstepped by outsiders who only see our homeland as an investment or a retirement destination. You have an opportunity to rectify this injustice and do what's right for your constituents. I implore you...be courageous and please do the right thing. If other states have imposed this, then why not Hawai'i?

Mahalo,

Mary Dudoit

Molokai Kama'āina

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:03:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin soenksen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I grew up here in Hawaii and although I am not Hawaiian I believe this land is sacred and should not be sold to foreigners. This is a special place and it's not a place of greed. To continue to let foreigners purchase our land is unacceptable. You must continue the culture of the island and fight the greed.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:03:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aulani Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill, SB2617, addresses a crucial issue concerning the ownership of real property in Hawaii by foreign principals. By prohibiting foreign principals from directly or indirectly acquiring real property in the state, except for minimal indirect interests, the bill aims to safeguard the integrity and sovereignty of Hawaii's real estate market.

The definition of "foreign principal" provided in the bill is comprehensive, covering various entities and individuals with ties to foreign countries. This clarity ensures that the law can effectively regulate ownership without ambiguity.

Additionally, the requirement for foreign principals who already own real property in Hawaii to register their ownership with the Department of the Attorney General by a specified deadline enhances transparency and accountability in real estate transactions.

Furthermore, the bill includes provisions for divestment of real property acquired after a certain date, preventing long-term foreign ownership that could potentially distort local real estate markets.

The penalties outlined in the bill, including civil penalties for failure to register and criminal penalties for violations, serve as deterrents against non-compliance and illegal acquisitions.

Moreover, the appropriation of funds for the Department of the Attorney General to administer the provisions of the bill underscores the state's commitment to enforcing these regulations effectively.

Overall, SB2617 addresses concerns about foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii in a comprehensive and proactive manner, promoting fairness, transparency, and the protection of local interests in the real estate market.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:03:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie woodfin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

So often do i think of what Life was like as a keki. The neighborhoods. The street, the towns. Growing up in kāpōlei when there was nothing But a couple neighborhoods and a small shopping center . Now, its the new Honolulu. Growth happens, i understand this. And for some growth it does bring good to our community . But only if it comes FROM our community. Local businesses owned by local people. People living in and giving back to that same community . 20 years ago kapolei was barely what it is now. Now looking ahead 20 more years, 50 years, 100? Our islands will be unrecognizable. Not only with all the construction and new properties , but also the PEOPLE will be unrecognizable. It will no longer be occupied by kanaka , by locals , by people who live for their community . Houses will be filled by tourist , foreigners , millionaires . Locals will be priced out , as they have already been heavily so . To buy land in Hawaii you must first live on the land to fully grasp what you are purchasing . You are not purchasing for profit . You are stealing chances of hope for our community .

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:04:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Damen Makua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it concerns,

I respectfully support this bill to ban foreign companies, countries and or entities and investment firms from buying Hawaii realestate. The State Attorney General believes its against our Constitution to pass this bill, i beg to differ, our Constitution does NOT apply to foreign countries, as they do NOT acknowledge our Constitution. China has been buying farm land from allover the U.S as well as land near military facilities, which I believe is a national security risk. Foreign countries/entities buying real-estate in Hawaii ultimately drives the cost of housing up to where Hawaii residents can no longer afford to pay for a mortgage let alone their increasing property taxes. What do we tell our children and the next generation? If we don't do everything possible to secure their future in Hawaii then WE failed them.. Those people elected by the PEOPLE of Hawaii MUST remember their oath and why they were elected in the first place! because we believed that you had the moral character and conviction to protect the interest of the PEOPLE of Hawaii, and not special interest groups. So please do the right thing and pass this bill asap!! And send a strong and clear message!! Hawaii NOT FOR SALE. Mahalo for your time and consideration. Damen Makua

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:04:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to pass this for many reason, but the most important one is so that us natives can get out of poverty and off the streets

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:05:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Karmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep foreign nationals from buying the already limited land/ property in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:06:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2617 which would prohibit foreign ownership of real property and consequently provide local people with greater opportunity to purchase real property so that they may own their own home and remain in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:07:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alaka'i Manu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SENATE BILL SB2617

Chair Keohokalolei, Chair Lee and Members of the Committees.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of Senate Bill SB2617 that will,

1. Prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest.
2. Defines and requires a foreign principal that owns real property that was acquired before this measured effective date to register the ownership with the Attorney General.
3. Requires a buyer of real property to provide a signed affidavit attested that the buyer is not a foreign principal.
4. Authorizes the forfeiture of real property or an interest in real property that is owned or acquired unlawfully.

I, Alaka`i Manū, stand in support of Senate Bill SB2617 which will allow me, a Hawai`i Resident that rents a multigenerational apartment and works multiple jobs, the possibility of owning a home where I was born and raised.

With the understanding of the rising cost of living. It has given myself and other Hawai`i Residents (locals) the inability to afford and compete with foreign principals that outbid us in real property.

I think it's a great idea that the State permits foreign principals who own property before July 1, 2024 to register the real property before January 1, 2025 and hold them accountable or receive a penalty of \$1000 each day for late registration.

To end my testimony Senate Bill SB2617 will allow Hawaii Residence the chance to acquire Hawaii homes even with the rising cost of living and no longer compete with foreign entities that outbid us in real estate. It has also provided a better structure to regulate buyers in registering ownership with the Attorney General or reap a civil penalty consequence.

Mahalo,

Alaka`i Manū

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:09:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Latronic	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop selling land in Hawaii to non US citizens. Give preference to Hawaiians and residence with two or more family members residing in the state ...

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:10:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Mullalley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Bill2617. Do not sellout Hawaii for foreign profit.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:11:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheridan Spelbring	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony supported.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:12:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kardeen Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Foreign investors who can afford to outbid Hawai'i residents have driven up the prices of homes and as such, driven up the cost of living in Hawai'i and drove many families away to the continent. Often times, these properties sit vacant and/or the rent is so high that locals cannot afford the rent. If this bill cannot be passed as written, for whatever reason, could the bill be amended to read, "foreigner investors must contribute a \$20K (or higher) per year assessment to an affordable housing project fund."

I believe this may also be a way to tackle the house less population that is growing by the day. It's really sad to see the elderly on the streets having to choose between having a roof over their head or food to eat.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:13:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richell Sweet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop foreigners from buying houses and land. Give the local people a chance. Let our children have a chance to own a home.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:14:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainalu Iaea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, passing bill SB2617 will finally confront the elephant in the room, for so long we've allowed foreigners to continuously purchase land here in Hawai'i meanwhile us residents are just getting by to allow our children a better future. Where will their futures lie? In Hawai'i or elsewhere? We only live on an island, with a steeping growth of population, with numerous problems of our own, while we allow foreigners to purchase and invest land at an outrageous amount, and in small amounts that continually adds up. Where will we have any land if foreigners are continuing to purchase land? What about future generations? We all appreciate and love this place, so why don't we take initiative to protect our home. Everyone thinks of Hawai'i as paradise, and getaway beach houses, but doesn't bother to take care or actually spend time here in Hawai'i. Foreigners continue to take and exhaust our land and resources just for leisure or to possibly purchase the land to flip for a price tag. It's horrific, eventually we'll run out of land and only have money. Where will we live? Money can only take us so far.. How will we sustain our homeland to continue future generations have the possibility to own land without the continual expansion of foreign purchases dominating our government, economy, and land. What about us? Where do we go? This is who we come to write our written testimonials for help, to you folks... the State of Hawai'i, so please be our guidance as the representatives of our state, and protect our home! Pass bill SB2617! For our residents and future generations of our home. Enough catering to tourists, and let's focus on improving our home! Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:15:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenise Putzulu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617. Throughout the decades, politicians have failed the people of Hawai'i. They have failed in numerous ways, but one epic failure has been the conditions they created in our housing market. How are locals to remain in Hawai'i when mortgage rates and rent are exceptionally high? How are our kids ever going to be able to buy a single-family home and thrive, when the cost-of-living forces the middle class to live pay check to pay check? How do families compete in Hawaii's housing market when outside investors flex their financial muscles to outbid local residents? All these years, and our politicians just stood by and watched it happen. It's time to finally do something about this crisis...it's time they do their job and start working FOR their constituents. In my opinion, there should absolutely be no more pay increases to politician's salaries until they figure out how to alleviate the high cost of living. Pass this bill to start putting locals first.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:15:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamielee Nakaahiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I'm Jamielee nakaahiki,

I am a resident born and raised on the island of kaua'i and I support bill SB2617. I believe this is one of the many major steps we have to take to help our local residents afford to purchase homes in Hawaii. Also to keep them here in Hawaii and not force to move off their homelands. Please help our local communities out and approve this bill.

Mahalo, Ke akua pū!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:19:42 PM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Curstyn Pacheco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concer,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the idea of allowing foreign nationals to purchase property in Hawaii. This matter concerns not only the residents of Hawaii but also the broader implications for our state's economy, culture, and environment. The following points encapsulate my concerns and the reasons for my stance:

- Affordability and Accessibility for Locals:** Allowing foreigners to buy property in Hawaii has significantly contributed to the skyrocketing real estate prices, making it increasingly difficult for local residents to afford homes. This trend exacerbates the housing crisis, pushing locals out of the market and leading to a loss of community identity and cohesion.
- Cultural Preservation:** Hawaii has a rich cultural heritage that is deeply intertwined with its land. The increasing ownership of Hawaiian land by non-residents threatens this cultural legacy, potentially leading to the erosion of local traditions and customs. It is crucial to preserve the unique culture of Hawaii for future generations.
- Environmental Concerns:** Hawaii's ecosystems are unique and fragile. The surge in property development to cater to foreign investors often disregards the environmental impact, leading to habitat destruction, pollution, and other ecological issues. Stricter controls on land ownership can help protect these precious environments.
- Economic Implications:** While foreign investment in real estate may initially seem to bring economic benefits, it can lead to long-term negative impacts, such as dependency on foreign wealth, volatility in the housing market, and unequal economic growth that benefits a few at the expense of the many.
- Community Impact:** The influx of non-resident property owners can lead to neighborhoods that are empty for much of the year, undermining the sense of community and belonging among residents. This phenomenon can decrease the vibrancy and liveliness of local communities.

In light of these concerns, I urge policymakers to consider implementing measures that restrict or regulate the ability of foreign nationals to purchase property in Hawaii. Policies could include completely prohibiting the sale of property to non-residents.

Such measures would help ensure that the interests of Hawaii's residents are protected, preserving the affordability of housing, the integrity of our communities, and our precious natural and cultural heritage.

Thank you for considering my testimony on this critical issue. I hope that you will take the necessary steps to safeguard the future of Hawaii and its residents.

Mahalo,

Curstyn Pacheco

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:19:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Holland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! my name is Laura Holland and I am testifying in support of this Bill (SB2617). We need this bill to protect our local resources, to maintain local control of our real estate market, and most importantly ensure access to affordable and available housing in Hawaii. This Bill should have happened decades ago. We live in a small island chain with limited land and resources it is imperative that we protect Hawaiians ability and right to live in Hawaii. Many other States as well as island nations have adopted measures such as these to protect their citizens it's only obvious that this is something Hawaii needs. As for the comments from our Attroney General and her beliefs that this bill is "unconstitutional" I have this question: What about Hawaii's history with America had been "constitutional" what about the treatment of hawaiians and the predicament not only hawaiians but any local resident is facing in Hawaii today? what about any of this is "constitutional" The Constitution was drafted to protect its citizens, and to allow them the pursuit of happiness and protection of livelihood which is exactly what this bill is aimed to do. This bill is the essence of the constitution more so than 99% of the hijinks and politics that have taken place in the State of Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:21:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charrel Yacapin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Everyone

My name is Charrel Yacapin and I am extremely concern about the future of Hawaii. This bill SB2617 will bring hope and give locals a chance!

The poor wages here in Hawaii is already a set back then to top it off the home prices is out of this world.

American Idol Iam Tongi was asked why did he move to the mainland on Feb 26, 2023 — Without missing a beat, Tongi responded: “Priced out of paradise.”

When you google the following question the following comes up

What does the phrase priced out of paradise mean?

Priced out of paradise. It's a turn of phrase that has almost become synonymous with living in Hawaii. The cost of living — from housing, groceries, gas and more — is causing droves of locals and Native Hawaiians to leave the place they grew up and where their ancestors are from.

What is the Hawaiian Islands with No Hawaiians/Locals?

Make Hawaii make sense again

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:21:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanda Min	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge legislation to support this bill, SB 2617. This bill needs to be put in place to stop foreigners from buying land and homes in Hawaii. We live on an island with limited resources and we have already seen the outcomes of disaster in the Maui fires. The lack of long-term housing solutions, contributed by the overpopulation of short term vacation rentals, has displaced many local people. Solutions for the lack of affordable housing in Hawaii is long overdue. The people of Hawaii deserve better and demand a better living situation. For example, when one owner is allowed to own 20+ short term vacation homes, it leaves hard-working, local families, residence of Hawaii, struggling to find affordable housing. Many argue that this is unconstitutional to stop foreigners from buying property and homes in Hawaii, but this is already being done in some states. Hawaii has been monopolized and capitalized for too many decades. Things need to change before Hawaii is no longer Hawaii. What makes Hawaii is a culture of people that come here to live and work. These are the people that we need to protect. These are the people that make Hawaii. These are the people that deserve to be able to buy homes and not watch them go to foreigners people who don't live here who have no connection to the land and only see dollar signs.

thank you for your time please support this bill. Deep down anyone who cares about Hawaii knows this needs to change.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:22:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jo Ann Ochi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with this bill, but if politicians and developers oppose this bill it will be because of profit and not concern for the locals that live here. As long as foreigners can pay these outrageous prices and there is a demand then I cannot see this bill passing. Greed and not concern for the residents of Hawaii is the reason all these luxury condos are being built compared to affordable housing. If foreigners and non Hawaii residents are not allowed to buy then more affordable housing can be built and locals who have not been able to afford anything will have a better chance of purchasing a home at a reasonable price and not be moving out of Hawaii to a state they don't want to live in, but can own a home. Also, we have to make politicians who have power to give developers tax credits or other incentives to help them build their project be accountable and make sure they are not doing it for their own profit. I worked at Ko Olina from 2001-2011. Jeff Stone was and still is the developer. I talked to him about offering employees a good deal on his projects so we could live and not have to commute to work from town. I was very interested in buying one of his projects. He said he was going to do that, but it never happened. Well, Colleen Hanabusa who could give him the tax credit and her husband or boyfriend used to always be at Ko Olina and she has a place in Kai Lani, which is at the entrance of Ko Olina. She bought it when it was about 500k or less. It has more than doubled and we who worked at Ko Olina got no opportunity because we have nothing to offer, quid pro quo. She's smart so used her boyfriend to buy the property and is making good on her investment. Lots of the people who own in Ko Olina are not locals. It's so expensive that locals can't afford it. We need to question those who oppose this bill. This is one of the only ways locals can compete if rich outsiders aren't allowed to buy homes they only use now and then or rent out for profit. If politicians oppose then you know that they are worried about losing a source of income by helping developers with their projects at the expense of the locals. It's all about money not people. If you know that this is one of the ways to solve the housing crisis then why wouldn't you pass this bill?

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:22:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryson Perez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and support the action to refuse out of state purchases of land.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:22:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern-

I am a third generation resident of Kailua, O'ahu. The past 20 years I've lost neighbors, a sense of community, and safety in our small town. There are many factors that led to this outcome, one being foreign investors purchasing homes for profit and allowing them to sit empty or used as vacation homes. My husband and I are now raising our daughter in Kailua. We are asking to not be forgotten. We owe it to the next generation to keep prices of real estate manageable, neighborhoods for actual residents, not for top profit

Mahalo nui

Liana

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:24:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rozanna Varize	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands and stop allowing foreign investors to price us out of Hawaii please!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:26:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Macey Domingcil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's time that Hawai'i does something for the people who are from here and for our future keiki. It's almost impossible for locals to purchase houses and are forced leave the islands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:28:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekainalu Duque	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

protect this land for its citizens and the future generations

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:29:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sade Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree that we should no longer sell land/homes to people who are not born and raised in Hawaii. Give our people a chance to own what should be theirs. These mainlanders come here to Hawaii and take everything away from our people and they have no aloha at all! I built my home with my family in 2020 on the Big Island of Hawaii and I am surrounded by people that moved here from the mainland and either bought property or a home. The most distracting thing about it is that they want us to change the way we live and live by what they approve. We are born and raised differently and our culture is different but they need to get that. I just want our people to know how good it feels to own their own home, especially to own a home in somewhere where we call home!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:30:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelani Supnet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Noelani Supnet and I was born and raised in Wahiawa, HI. I love my hometown and would absolutely love to be able to buy a home where I grew up, where I raise my Keiki, but it has become increasingly difficult with foreign investors buying and flipping for even more than we can afford, I see them frequently in the little place we live and it makes me nervous that at any moment someone can tell us they want us out because they want to build another business instead or more apartments, we're already so over populated and living next to the military base makes it even more difficult because they're allowed to rent out homes that locals can barely afford with multiple families yet they have their own housing on base that we have no access to. I believe it is "unconstitutional" for these people who arent from here to have more rights than those who fight to care for the land we were raised on.

Mahalo for your time

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:30:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Cadavona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB2617.

I am proud to be born and raised here in Hawai'i. But I see how hard it is for my generation to afford housing. I understand that foreigners don't make up a large part of the buyers here, but any non-local buyers increase the market price of houses, thus making it hard for locals to afford houses/be competitive buyers.

It isn't unconstitutional to pass a bill like this, especially when other states have passed similar laws. Hawaii is one of the most expensive places to live in this country. This bill would help keep locals, and most importantly, keep Hawaiian families on Hawaiian land. Especially at a time when less than 50% of native hawaiiians live in hawaii. This measure puts locals and hawaiiians first.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:30:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared Hakuole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to whom it may concern,

I Jared Nawaiki Hakuole support the bill SB2617 for the soul reason of keeping the kānaka on their 'Āina. This bill will also create a clear vision of ownership and stewardship. To often land is being mismanaged by foreign investors. The foreign investors, build on the Āina, take from the limited resources, damage/ polute our natural environment to only collect their profits then sell the now no longer fertile land. I hope that the kānaka will have a chance to buy land and this may be that opportunity. Ua mau ke ea o ka Āina I ka pono.

mahalo nui,

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:32:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaulana Irons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support whole heartedly this bill to be passed. As a native Hawaiian i am unable to reside in my fathers original birthplace as well as my ancestors before because the price of real estate has been pushed up by investors and developers not from Hawaii. Please support and pass this bill. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:32:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Poi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617, because I believe it is in the best interest of the local people to have that fighting chance to stay in hawaii. For far too long the locals have been the victims of mainland investors buying land, driving up the price of real-estate, and or turning the property into rentals/air bnb's. Locals are being priced out of their homes and being forced to move away to survive. I feel it is the very least the government can do to help support the locals and try keep families and traditions in the islands. Our governor Josh Green pledge to help families to stay in hawaii and fix our housing crisis. I believe by passing bill SB2617 this effort will be a tremendous step in the right direction.

Thank you for you time.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:33:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robely keali'i Ekolu lovell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Is been long over due... they can visit and go home 🏠

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:34:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill and help protect local families to be able to afford homes here. When I was married, my wife and I attempted to purchase a home for our family. We could barely afford \$950,000 for a house in the Honolulu area. Everywhere we put in offers, we were outbid by foreign investors who turned the property in to a rental as soon as it was out of escrow. A house in Honolulu for \$1 million dollars. That's what it costs to have a home that isn't in the west side and where you don't have to commute almost an hour each way to and from your job. The representatives in the legislature need to help keep local people here and make homes affordable. Honestly, I know when I retire, I will be moving to the mainland due to cost of living here. Maybe this bill will help my kids or other local families stay here. Please support this bill as a start to protect the local families.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:35:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vaokakala Fale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this Long over due bill. We need to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands!! I am not of Hawaiian blood, but I stand with our Hawaiian brothers and sisters. How can we give up land so easily to foreigners who have no interest in keeping Hawai'i HAWAII? That is just HEWA!! EŌ HAWAI'I EŌ! I SUPPORT THIS BILL!! Mahalo Nui Brenton Awa for standing up for the people of Hawai'i!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:35:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faun Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Faun Lewis, I'm a native Hawaiian, Born in Hilo on the Big Island. Grew up in Honolulu and moved to Kauai in 1992. I love Kauai, it is the oldest Island, there is so much Mana and spirit here. Kauai is very both Healing and can spit you out if you don't accept it's healing. Over the past 32 years I have lived here on Kauai, I have noticed a lot of Land being bought and sold off. A lot of Native Lands. Now days, I drive up the road of where I grew up and I don't recognize a lot of people that own the homes and property. They are all foreigners from Canada and the mainland. Why can't the natives, the people that were born and raised here in Hawaii afford to buy homes, so that we can remain here? Why must we get evicted from our homes and become homeless, because we can't afford the rents here? Why must we live on the beach and streets and then get harassed by the state and county, because we have no where to go?

Im in support of this new bill, where we should not allow foreigners to buy up all the land, that we are as Native Hawaiians are connected to. The Natives should be taken care of first. It is our Kuleana to take care of the people and Land first. We need to start investing into the people, Keiki and land. So that we maybe able to help all the housless Natives as well. And we need to help the mentally ill challenged. If we take care the people, then the people can take care the land and help the ones in need. We would have less crime too, if we helped the people first. In Jesus name Lord, help us All.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:37:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacelyn fliegel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Please help keep foreign buyers out in hopes local families can stay in Hawaii where we belong.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:38:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalaimanuia hikalea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Kanaka of this land I feel it is in our best interest we support this bill. We deserve to buy our own land so our families can still be here for generations to come. Not foreigners who will come in and buy the land to make a profit. Our people are suffering we are forced out of our home lands to go "make it" somewhere else, Or forced to live in multigenerational homes cause that's all we can afford. We deserve to reap the benefits of our aina and not have to keep fighting for what is rightfully ours. When will it be enough? When will our suffering end?

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:39:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
william k morn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Iam in support of this proposed bill. Too much of our native people are getting pushed out of our home land. We need to pass this into law to let the natives have a chance of being home owners in our home land. Hawaii's future depends on this bill getting passed. This state and its people are headed down a rocky road if it doesn't pass.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:40:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Garrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I support bill SB2617. I believe this bill would allow more Hawaii residents to be able to purchase real estate. If the foreign buyers are not able to come in with cash offers, it will give the locals a better chance at owning a piece of Hawaii.

Please do what is right for the people of Hawaii and pass bill SB2617!

Mahalo,

Shannon Garrison

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:40:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chase Keliipaakaua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Chase Keliipaakaua. I am Native-Hawaiian, I am a father of three children, I work two jobs and make a more than decent living wage. Yet, I cannot afford to buy property in my home land. The price, in and of itself, is not the only issue we face here - although steps could be taken in order to ensure affordability. We find ourselves competing with foreign investors who have no pilina to these islands, who purchase properties in order to perpetuate the ideology that Hawai'i is a permanent holiday, and who occupy parcels of land on paper alone - because they are only ever here when they need to escape the industrial jungles that they come from.

So what, then, for our people - the kupa 'āina of these lands? "Priced out of Paradise" has become a stinging slogan and rallying cry for many of us - forced to become part of the diaspora, living away from these sands on the continent of our colonizers. Most who remain are forced to live and raise their ever-growing families in generational homes, filling every nook and cranny until they, too, can no longer live comfortably. And those are the ones who are lucky, like me.

This bill provides a slight glimpse of hope, alleviates a small portion of the long-standing issues that the blooded citizens of these islands have faced since our Queen bade us to sit in aloha. We, who would rather eat stones than give up our lands (those aren't the exact words), since time immemorial.

Please, allow us to be nourished. Stand in support of SB2617.

Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:40:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Love	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support legislation that limits foreign buyers in Hawaii. Being born and raised here, too many of the friends I grew up with left Hawaii or are planning to leave. Cost of living is too high and the dream of home ownership too far out of reach. We can't stop people from wanting to come to the beautiful place we call home, but we can stop foreign buyers who drive up the cost of living, purchase properties that sit empty and don't contribute to our communities except to take from them. Protect our own by not selling to foreigners. It's common sense.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:43:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2617

Hauoli Kalama

2456 Kamehameha V Hwy unit A

Kaunakakai, HI, 96748

olikalama5@gmail.com

808-344-3577

2/5/24

CPN/TCA

Hawaii State Capitol Room 205 (CPN); Hawaii State Capitol Room 219 (TCA)

Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

Dear CPN Committee Members: Jarrett Keohokalole, Carol Fukunaga, Agnus L.K. McKelvey, Herbert M. "Tim" Richards III, Brenton Awa

and,

TCA Committee Members: Chris Lee, Lorraine R. Inouye, Brandon J.C. Elefante, Jarrett Keohokalole, Brenton Awa

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by allowing people who were born and raised here to at least have a chance to purchase land and a home for them and their family. This bill could help the rising cost of living go down since a lot of the rising cost comes from foreigners buying and selling but who sell at a higher price. A lot of foreigners just want to flip a house to get rich but not care about the people who live pay check to pay check just to make a living.

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Hauoli Kalama

I am in support of Bill SB2617

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:45:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Kalaʻi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am in support of SB2617 as it will help to save land and property from being purchase by foreigners. Native Hawaiians deserve to be able to live in our home. Too many properties sit vacant or get rented out to tourists. We are priced out but the inflation of the properties. We need to be able to control and stop the exploitation of our land to make it more accessible to Kanaka Maoli. Please support this bill so we can be one step closer.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:45:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaylin Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write to convey my SUPPORT of SB2617, relating to real property.

First and foremost, keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:45:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaila Lagunero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Thaila Lagunero and I am a State of Hawai'i resident residing in Senate District 9. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2617, which addresses the ability for foreign principles to acquire real property within the State of Hawai'i.

I urge the committee to pass this bill because it will level set real property in the State by protecting the inventory of available real property for purchase by U.S. citizens, and a positive downstream effect would be to provide reasonable, more affordable purchase prices for local residents and/or returning (local) residents.

I understand that a negative effect this bill may have would be the loss of foreign investors for larger real property development which may include provisions to include low-income housing/units within the development.

I believe in the immediate future this may be fiscally painful however beyond that and in perpetuity, the generational benefit to the Native Hawaiian community and the local residents of Hawai'i with the passage of this bill actualizes the dream of homeownership and more importantly the affordability of homeownership that has long been out of reach for so many of us and has even been the primary cause for residents to leave our State.

This could be part of a multi-pronged approach to solving for the "brain drain" phenomenon by making it more affordable for current residents to stay and possibly enticing young singletons and families who moved away to come back.

I believe Senate Bill 2617 is a well-crafted and necessary step towards prohibiting foreign principles from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State except a de minimus indirect interest. I urge the committee to vote in favor of this important legislation.

Sincerely,
Thaila Lagunero

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:46:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalei T	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in support of SB2617.

I understand that by placing restrictions on the housing market, it will disrupt our economic chain somewhere along the lines, but bottom line is LOCAL RESIDENTS cannot compete. Owning a home in Hawaii for most residents is now a pipe dream.

Dealing with an outrageous housing market, never-ending increases to our cost of living, a pitiful incompatible minimum wage, and no real solutions to these problems - it is clear what is happening here. The housing market is one of the biggest factors of division in the economy and strongly supports an unaffordable Hawaii.

Residents are now unable to sustain a life here. Forced to chase the "American Dream" elsewhere in the United States. Totally Unacceptable! Why are we being forced out at the expense of another? Why are we expendable?

We should do right by our residents and NOW IS THE TIME. This bill is a steppingstone towards a more fair and equal economy. I also believe it'll offer hope and a pathway to becoming homeowners for those who no longer thought it was possible. We are asking to be seen and heard. These islands are too important to us, especially when it comes down to the preservation of our culture. We cannot keep up with this housing market.

There are so many people struggling, many residents who have left, and many who are contemplating to leave because we no longer can afford a life here. My expectation with this bill is that you heavily consider both sides in this matter before making your decisions. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:49:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberley Limasa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill due to the fact that as an island state we have a limited amount of land/homes. As such, a limit to outside sale of said land/homes must be instituted in order to ensure availability to Hawai'i residents.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:50:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipo Hanakahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Constitutional Justifications for SB2617: Protecting Hawaii's Cultural Heritage and Sovereignty

1. SB2617 aligns with the constitutional principle of state sovereignty, allowing Hawaii to regulate property ownership within its borders to protect the unique cultural and historical interests of its people, a power granted to states under the Tenth Amendment.
2. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property, SB2617 addresses potential concerns related to national security, as states have a constitutional duty to safeguard their citizens and assets from external influences that may compromise the well-being of the community.
3. The restriction on foreign ownership serves as a reasonable regulation to prevent speculative real estate practices that could negatively impact the stability of Hawaii's housing market, an objective that falls within the state's authority to regulate commerce and protect the welfare of its residents.
4. SB2617 can be justified under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, as it aims to ensure fair and equitable treatment for Native Hawaiians by preserving their access to and control over lands of cultural significance, thus promoting social and economic equality.
5. The requirement for foreign principals to register their ownership with the Attorney General aligns with constitutional principles of transparency and accountability, promoting responsible governance and ensuring that the state has adequate information to enforce its laws.
6. The provision for forfeiture of unlawfully owned property, along with the establishment of penalties, falls within the scope of the state's police powers to regulate for the public health, safety, and general welfare, a constitutional authority upheld by various Supreme Court decisions.
7. Acknowledging the appropriation exceeding the state general fund expenditure ceiling in SB2617 demonstrates a commitment to constitutional checks and balances, as the measure brings attention to potential fiscal implications, allowing for appropriate legislative scrutiny and debate.

These constitutional arguments collectively support SB2617 as a valid and well-founded expression of Hawaii's constitutional rights in addressing the unique circumstances and needs of its people.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:51:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ta'nia Pauole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of bill SB2617. Being born and raised in Hawai'i, I know my kūpuna prayed and worked tirelessly to see generation after generation raised on the same 'āina they cultivated with aloha. To keep it simple, KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS, IN HAWAIIAN HANDS. We as people are not separate beings from our 'āina, kai, elements, and creatures that surround us. We are one, we are all connected. Someone who is not Hawai'i at their core would not understand this bond. Everyone knows Hawai'i is a very special place with mana that is unmatched. We are the source of aloha, and the only way that spirit will stay alive is if kept stewarded by the right hands and right hearts, po'e Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:52:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamalei Fung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand by this bill to not let foreigners buy Hawaiian lands in the state of Hawaii!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:53:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Asia A	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This Bill has truly been long overdue. Housing prices continue to skyrocket and residents continue to move off island. It's about time we put our own residents' interests above those of foreign buyers.

Most people I talk to on island have lost faith in our local government for a variety of reasons, but this is one of the main reasons. We need to make this issue a priority.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:59:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Rachel Colton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support measures such as this bill in at least adjusting the economic environment to make housing more affordable for local families. This bill will help identify and prevent foreign buyers from speculating and holding title to land that can be occupied by local families.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:03:45 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Coursey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:03:53 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Autumn Goerts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting SB2617. Knowing that property ownership in the US helps support an application for a Permanent Resident status I understand and support anyone who is coming to do so with good intentions. However taking advantage of "property values" in Hawai'i with the intent to purchase land or property only to leave it vacant or worse yet to use it as a money-maker at the expense of families who have ties to the islands already should legally be discouraged. Thank you.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:05:56 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heavenly Liua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617 and agree that it is long overdue. Investment companies and foreigners have long had the opportunity to purchase a piece of Hawaii. This has created a disadvantage for Hawaii's citizens and it's culture. It is time for the locals of Hawaii to have the opportunity of ownership without continuing to be priced out by investment companies and foreigners. It would be unconstitutional to not establish justice and general welfare for the people of Hawaii so they may thrive in their own homeland.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:06:51 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
susan walczak-pol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No more foreign interest buying up out land!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:08:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin lorico	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:08:49 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micah Tom Sun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Foreigners should not be allowed to purchase anywhere in Hawai'i.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:10:15 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoe Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dr. Haunani Trask says it best, in her explanation of 'Tourism and The Prostitution of Hawaiian Culture',- "...Hawai'i, like a lovely woman, is there for the taking. Those with only a little money get a brief encounter, those with a lot of money get more."

This is the sad reality. As a native Hawaiian, the injustice towards our people and the mismanagement of land is disgusting. We are continuously being forced out from our island home to satisfy the fantasies of "foreign investors" who come to exploit us.

I've been on multiple webinars regarding home ownership only to learn that real estate here in Hawaii is being bought up by "outsiders" and not only that, they are offering 3-4 times the asking price! Who in Hawaii can compete with that? We are, and continue to be at a disadvantage when it comes to land and homeownership in Hawaii- let alone "affordable housing." And yet again the people of Hawaii are expected to sit back and accept our fate. A'ole!

Hawaii lawmakers and representatives, you have done and continue to do the people of Hawaii a great injustice, especially our native Hawaiian population, each and every time you allow our island home to be pimped out to the highest bidder. Enough is enough. Hawaii is my home- she is not a prostitute. Hawaii must support SB2617

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:10:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kornelious Tabag-Taira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Native Hawaiian/ U.S citizens are undoubtedly going through a rough time with owning land, renovating land, cultivating land, and purchasing land. To allow foreigners permanent access to land for some ink and paper is not morally nor naturally correct. We need to keep hawaiian lands in hawaiian hands. It is bad enough that we do not have a kanaka maoli running this state, so why will we allow foreigners to purchase land? We have 50 other states that contain people who can purchase land, allowing other countries/foreigners to get involved will definitely run the native citizens of the aina out. I'm sure others can vouch when I say it's already getting bad, so DON'T make it WORSE. #KEEPHAWAIIANLANDSINHAWAIIANHANDS

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:14:05 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alaka'i Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Alaka'i Ramos of Waimānalo, Hi stand with Brent Awa and his campaign on this bill that has been long overdue. This bill would have had an even bigger impact back then. But we Hawai'i need this bill more then ever. With this bill so much of our land will not be taken advantage of by foreigners that have no interest in giving back to our people. OUR PEOPLE who's home they are doing business on and desecrating. So much pollution to our ocean is coming from from foreigners and mass production . So the more foreigners can just buy buy buy. The more our ocean is less less less. I support Brent Awa on this bill.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:15:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Skyy aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should strive to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. In order to rebuild and support our native Hawaiian community that have been struggling due to foreign interests and investments, pricing is out of our homelands, Aloha. I myself was forced to leave Hawai'i due to extreme financial pressure and this would be a small step to empower our people.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:17:04 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alaka'i Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Alaka'i Ramos of Waimānalo, Hi stand with Brent Awa and his campaign on this bill that has been long overdue. This bill would have had an even bigger impact back then. But we Hawai'i need this bill more then ever. With this bill so much of our land will not be taken advantage of by foreigners that have no interest in giving back to our people. OUR PEOPLE who's home they are doing business on and desecrating. So much pollution to our ocean is coming from from foreigners and mass production . So the more foreigners can just buy buy buy. The more our ocean is less less less. I support Brent Awa on this bill.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:21:50 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Jamile	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiian lands belong in Hawaiian hands. I should be allowed to raise my children in my homeland without worries of being priced out. Hawaiian children deserve to grow up in the land their ancestors maintained and should continue to be the stewards of the land.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:22:41 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahela Kahe'e Gomez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In full support of this Bill. It's about time!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:25:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Mahealani Bernal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:26:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support bill SB 2617 to keep Hawaiian lands out of the hands of foreign buyers. This can potentially help more local families have the chance of buying property since one area of major competition would be stopped. In addition, this could also help slow the increase of property values/sales so more local families can again, have a better chance of purchasing land. We need to reclaim the limited amount of land that exists in Hawaii and keep it within our local/national community.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:27:16 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimberly M Kaimikaua Saifoloi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617 "long overdue bill" to prevent foreign buyers from purchasing real estate in Hawaii.

We are an ISLAND and unlike other states, Hawaii's lands are so limited in comparison. When foreign investors buy up our lands, which in turn drives up the cost for real estate, kamaaina suffer because of it.

The exodus of so many local residents from Hawaii, proves how these incomprehensible allowances have adversely affected the cost to purchase a home, let alone, to even live in Hawaii!

Please pass SB2617 Mahalo

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:27:28 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Bitanga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill, to many Hawaiian's are leaving Hawaii ... Hawaii will soon be just another mainland state if all the Hawaiian's leave. The cost of housing here is much to high, like Iam Tongi said on national television! We are priced out of Hawaii.. I say if you are not from Hawaii ! You are a Foreigner... Hawaii should not be sold to Foreigners...

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:29:56 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Liu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Keohokalole, Senator Lee, Senator Fukunaga and Senator Inouye,

As a native Hawaiian I love my home and this 'aina but I have seen too much of it lost by being sold to foreigners. The prices of the homes and land we haven't lost to foreign investment has just skyrocketed and most of us are now paying insane mortgages or rent to live on our own native land. This should never have been allowed to happen. We cannot change the past but we can take measures to correct it and protect our 'aina and our future now. I support this bill 100% and urge you to vote YES and do the pono thing for our people! Thank you.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:32:04 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealani Canda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony. I stand in support of this bill and hope that this passes. Our land is precious and it is limited and right now there are too many foreigners buying up as much as they can get and turning it for profit that does not benefit us in Hawaii at all nor does it allow local people to afford housing or land. Please stop "pricing us out of paradise". There needs to be a change that happens and I hope that this is a way to begin that change. Mahalo!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:33:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deja Dean Ruiz Spinney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being born and raised in Hawaii is a blessing. Hawaii isn't Hawaii without its people, I believe this bill could be the beginning of restoring our untouchable culture of living ALOHA. The cost of living and housing has been a major factor in pushing locals to move to the States. If something like this were to pass I believe it could be a great step in the right direction to begin bringing locals back home in order to strengthen the amazing community and culture built by the people of Hawaii.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:34:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mehana Ranney Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Legislature,

As a native Hawaiian who was born and raised in these beautiful islands, and as the first of my immediate family to achieve the dream of homeownership in Hawaii, I am deeply troubled by the current state of our housing market. I am writing to urge your support for the bill that prohibits foreign home buyers in Hawaii.

My journey to homeownership has been a long and challenging one. Despite serving as a nurse practitioner in the US Army, achieving this milestone was no easy feat. It required years of hard work, sacrifice, and careful financial planning. However, the rising tide of foreign investment in Hawaiian real estate threatens to undermine the stability and security that I have worked so hard to attain.

The housing crisis in Hawaii is not just a statistic or a talking point—it is a devastating reality that impacts real people like me every day. It is heartbreaking to see my fellow residents struggle to find affordable housing, while foreign investors snap up properties as lucrative investments, driving prices further out of reach for local families.

Moreover, as a proud Hawaiian, I am deeply concerned about the cultural implications of unchecked foreign investment in our islands. Our unique way of life, rooted in the traditions and values of our ancestors, is at risk of being eroded by speculative investment and absentee ownership. We cannot allow our homeland to become a playground for the wealthy, while the people who call Hawaii home are pushed to the margins.

Passing this bill to prohibit foreign home buyers is not just a matter of economic policy—it is a matter of justice and equity for the people of Hawaii. It is about ensuring that our residents have access to safe, affordable housing. It is about preserving the cultural integrity of our islands for future generations. And it is about honoring the sacrifices of those, like myself, who have dedicated their lives to serving our country and our community.

I urge you to stand with the people of Hawaii by supporting this critical piece of legislation. The future of our islands depends on it.

Mahalo nui loa,

Mehana Moore

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:37:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Mendiola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was born and raised on the Big Island of Hawai'i.

I am a resident of Hawai'i Island.

I support this bill because I strongly feel that Hawai'i is a very unique place with a lot of Aloha and culture. We definitely need to keep it this way. We can't have big corporations or outsiders buying up our land and destroying our culture and disrespecting the land that our ancestors left for us to take care of and carry on the traditions that we grew up with. It's the pride that we take in the land that we cultivate and teach our keiki the importance of taking care of the land so it can take care of us and generations to come. If we don't, who will? Then Hawai'i won't be Hawai'i. We will be like the rest of the world, no Aloha, no sense of worth and pride, empty.

How would you like someone to live in your backyard mess it up, create a havoc and leave. Then you have to go out there and clean it up at your expense. When we could have avoided the situation in the first place.

We have non-native ethnicities that have already come to the islands and bought up our lands, putting up gates to access beaches, making the land taxes go higher, telling the locals that were born and raised here what we can and can't do, influencing us on how we should do things here. The only way we can stop that is pass this bill or we can do it the hard way and have Pele take back what is hers and learn the hard way. It's called cleaning house, just like how she did in 2018.

This is our home!! We have no where else to go!!

Enough is Enough!!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:38:45 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremy M. Keone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am for the bill to prevent foreigners from buying property in Hawaii, and to stop our people from leaving the islands to find another place to live.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:38:46 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moani Mahuna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Moani Mahuna. I am a native Hawaiian born and raised here in Waimea on Hawaii island. I've lived here all my life and in the 35 years I've lived on this earth I've watched our home change so much; land and properties sold and bought by people not from here, foreigners to Hawaii and it needs to stop. I support this bill to restrict foreigners from buying property here in Hawaii. We the people of Hawaii need to regain autonomy over our lands and homes and properties so that we can keep our people here home in our islands instead of losing them to other states because there are either no properties or no affordable properties left for local families. Foreign buyers take up homes that they don't even occupy and drive up the property values beyond what locals can afford. I support this bill in being the first step to regaining control over the real estate crisis happening in Hawaii. Keep Hawaii, Hawaii. Keep Hawaii Hawaiian.

Mahalo

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:41:51 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Molina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:43:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimo galon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. This bill will help local and Hawaiian families secure generational land for thier families. If the AG thinks this is unconstitutional then they can take it to court and find out. If the AG wants to unconditionally deny the Supreme Court Bruen vs NY decision then they can take this to court as well.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:48:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Kanda-Estabilio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This needs to get passed. As a native Hawaiian who has lived here my whole life. Struggling to just get by will never have the opportunity to own a home here with the rising cost of living. Not to mention nothing affordable. It has gotten so bad the affordable housing isn't even affordable anymore. Foreigner coming in and buying the local community out has got to stop. This isn't fair. It isn't Pono!!!!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:49:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie freeman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I beleive that this bill is very important, the price of housing keeps skyrocketing and is pushing the locals away to live in the mainland. Hawaii would not be Hawaii if not for the local residents, and by passing this bill, it would help the pricing of houses to stop increasing at such a quick rate, and maybe even help decrease the price a little. This would help locals be able to afford a house. I am born and raised on Oahu and I will probably never be able to buy a house due to such ridiculous prices. This bill will help locals to remain in Hawaii, by making housing a little more affordable. I am also a Native Hawaiian. Competting with foreigners for housing is not a problem that Native Hawaiians should have to think about or worry about. Passing this bill is a must. It is what is best for everyone, for the visitors, and it is what's best for the locals and our ohanas.

Mahalo nui loa,

Marie Keohokalani Freeman

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:50:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denby Toci	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No more selling our lands to outsiders!

Set aside lands for our own to buy.

Our children are returning home unable to afford rent or purchase their own home or land as it's unaffordable.

make it pono for our local Hawaiian families who are born and raised on this aina.

Enough is enough!

insupport bill SB2617

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:50:51 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaikoa Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Enough is enough give the lands back to Hawaiians

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:51:56 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Mendiola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Enough is enough! We cannot even practice or rights to access or own shore lines "Papaikou mill" because one Canadian said it's all his. Before Kapoho got taken away the people who bought houses in Kapoho subdivision hired a private security to tell us we can't park there. We needed fish for a funeral to feed the many family members coming from the outhur islands. We needed access to Pepeekeo rivers to get watercress opae lihiwai prawns n pig only found in certain valleys. All was blocked by yellow gates. No access to hunting zones. Because of new ranchers who bought sugar cane land. USA bombs Micronesia USA brings them here n give them land money all kinds of assistance. We da Kanaka maoli/ people of this land are still on the waiting list fo nothing! Maui fires is 6 months old the county is closing down hubs. People are supposed to have gotten over there family members burning to death burnt to a crisp trying to put out fires in there back yards. I ask wat u like me bring from Moku O Keawe day tell I like tripe boy. I can Tutu u like ake to. "Hah, u make ake?" I make fo u! Dis all da kine stuff u cannot buy it's pass down from da people of dis land! Our Ohana Kaaihue Kaaloa Pahia Kai'ākea Pele'ioholani and so much more. We are Mahi'ai Lawaia honorable law abiding Koa wen our queen told us to stand down we were disciplined and followed her word. Only to be same we have no access to the lands that hold these mea'ai we suppose to have the right to get for our Ohana to ease there suffering and grievings. Just a simple dish made a certain way can transport them back to happy times in the mountains near the sea. To take all that away because some that has no clue what this land holds is such a shame. To see big Maile groves pushed by bulldozers not knowing what they just killed. To see Koa trees pushed over fo subdivision's. To go with my Mom to look for a fine red limu that her grandmother showed her only grew at on the south shore of Oahu was not there anymore because all these houses was built right on the shore line. Maybe will never be seen or eaten again. People that moved here said we the Hawaiian people would be inter breed out of existence by now! We are Kanaka Maoli people of this land! We are still hĒĀ!!! The world have already lost a lot. We can show the world that dis Aina need us as much as we need it. Mahalo Nu Nui Loa a hui hou Aloha

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:57:53 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ivan Poepoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OUR PEOPLE, OUR HOME!

Dont let these foreigners take this island because of the disaster! They don't care about us, the ohanas that have been affected and lost everything are fighting every second. Foreigners just want a place to come to when they are bored and for what? To just watch all the families that have been here for generations sleep on the beach? Struggle? If this happens. MAUI WILL BE NO MORE! WE WILL NOT LET THIS BRING US DOWN! WE WONT GIVE UP THAT EASY! Let our people rebuild and live the way we are supposed to. With ALOHA.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:02:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. I am a native Hawaiian, born and raised on the island of O‘ahu and currently work as a public servant. I serve the community of O‘ahu including all the tourists that visit. It is HEWA that hard working Hawaiians and people of Hawai‘i are not able to afford property here at home due to outsiders purchasing property here.

Mahalo for your time.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:02:16 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paleka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill for a multitude of reasons. Having to move away from where I am from for one due to competition with mainlanders that can buy housing to only stay during part of the year while kama'āina has to settle for multi-family homes. This bill would also give the younger generation a chance to buy their own home in the place they were born and raised in. This is not a want, this is a need for the people of Hawai'i.

LATE LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:06:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Peterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

My name is Regina Nanipua Okalani Peterson, I am a Hawaiian language lover, because, there is life in our language and because of our ‘ōlelo makuahine, my language teaches me my kuleana to protect everything Hawai‘i, therefore, i am a kumu ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, I am a kia‘i of our ‘āina, I mālama ‘āina, I am Hawai‘i!!! For over 131 years foreigners have taken everything from the people of Hawai‘i, Kānaka Maoli and Kānaka Hawai‘i. Foreigners have purposefully tried to make us forget our language, forget our culture, forget our stories, forget our sacred spaces, forget our ancestors, forget ourselves, which plays a big part in why things are in such turmoil here in Hawai‘i today. According to Public Law 103-150, the United States Congress recognizes (1) on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii on January 17, 1893, acknowledges the historical significance of this event which resulted in the suppression of the inherent sovereignty of the Native Hawaiian people; Which means, everything operated under anything of the United States, the state of Hawai‘i, and every entity attached to it, is illegal, null and void! Which means, every ‘āina purchase should be put to a stop until reconciliation takes place and our Ko Hawai‘i Pae ‘Āine Government is reinstated. However, you have an opportunity to start to make it right. In fact, Public Law 103-150 says: (2) congress recognizes and commends efforts of reconciliation initiated by the State of Hawai‘i. It’s time to start the reconciliation process, support this bill, as i do, and my students do, the future of Hawai‘i. Allow our future leaders of Hawai‘i an opportunity to reconnect to our language, by allowing them to be able to still see and bring back to life, the sacred spaces and places of our people. and through that reconnection, they will become a better leader than you and I ever were or will be. Make a better change for their future, not yours! Mahalo!!!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:09:26 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason midro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this 2617 bil.

it is not right for hawaii lands to be bought by foreigners investors who are driving up the housing prices & cost of living for hawaii residents.

It is becoming too expensive.

These outside buyers need to be restricted to stop rising cost of homes; so hawaii residents will be able to afford housing here.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:12:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill SB2617, which addresses the pressing issue of housing affordability and foreign ownership in Hawaii. As a native Hawaiian who has personally experienced the challenges of living in my homeland, I believe that this bill is crucial for the well-being and future prosperity of our community.

At 21 years old, I made the difficult decision to leave Hawaii in 2020 due to the increasingly unaffordable cost of living. Like many others in my generation, I found myself priced out of the housing market and struggling to make ends meet. Foreign ownership of property has exacerbated this issue, driving up prices and making it even more difficult for locals to secure affordable housing.

Bill SB2617 provides much-needed protections for Hawaiian residents by imposing restrictions on foreign ownership of residential properties. By limiting the ability of non-residents to purchase homes in Hawaii, this bill aims to stabilize the housing market and make homeownership more attainable for those who call Hawaii their home.

Furthermore, this legislation addresses the broader issue of economic inequality in our state. By prioritizing the needs of local residents over outside investors, we can create a more equitable society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

I urge you to support Bill SB2617 and take decisive action to address the housing crisis facing Hawaii. By passing this bill, we can ensure a brighter future for generations of Hawaiians to come.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Noah TK Williams

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:26:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 P

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Paulo Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617 and urge the legislature to do so as well! Mahalo!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:28:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JewelMarie Paleka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB2617...Hawaii is NOT for sale! Stop foreigners from purchasing property across the State. The interest of the State is its people NOT foreigners. Right now, Maui, Lahaina & Kula specifically, are in dire need of recovery and restore. Our homeless situation is in dire need of remediation. And our Hawaiian people continue to wait for their rewards to so call rehabilitate. Our affairs are for our people NOT the foreigners. Hawaii is currently at the hands of a foreigner...

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:28:51 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ana Abbey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Arguments Against Foreign Investment in Hawaii

1. **Loss of Control Over Local Resources:** Excessive foreign and out of state ownership has led to decisions being made based on the interests of foreign and out of state investors rather than the needs and priorities of the local community. i.e. water rights, diversion to military and luxury homes for foreigners/non residents.
2. **Cultural and Social Impacts:** Concerns exist about the potential cultural and social impacts of high levels of foreign ownership, including the influence on local traditions and communities. The development of luxury condos on iwi kupuna and cultural/architectural sites.
3. **Real Estate Market Impact:** Foreign investment and non residential real estate purchases has increased our home values, making it more challenging for local residents to afford homeownership. In turn, the cost of living is not in balance with the salaries and pay for locals.
4. It makes no sense that foreigners are allowed to purchase real estate in Hawaii and we are not allowed to purchase property in their country?

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:35:19 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Puou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

RE: Support for S.B. No. 2617, Relating to Real Property

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair Lee, and members of the Committees,

Aloha mai kākou, ‘O Kanani Leimaile Puou ko‘u inoa. Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 2617, Relating to Real Property. I, Kanani Leimaile Puou, stand in support of SB2617, as a resident of Lahaina and also as a Kanaka Maoli. This will truly help with not only the efforts for Lahaina but for our future generations of Kanaka Maoli.

We urge senate committees to pass S.B. No. 2617. Thank you for your time and this opportunity to testify.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:38:18 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this Bill

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:42:39 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ReneKulialaniSimpson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill so that it addresses the market disparity to tie the housing market to local wages rather than diplomatic, military and foreign investors for current market housing. Make it so that local earners with minimum 10 year residency that shall include reparations for pensioned military service members who served overseas, college and graduate school overseas.

Modernize existing programs so that it aligns with programs already in existence so that it addresses the current disparities.

I support the summary of SB 2617

Rene Kulialani Simpson of Waiohuli Maui

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:43:35 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Theodore Anuhe Roscoe Toulouse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sounds good to me.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:45:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ciara Leinaala Kwock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We desperately need to take back control of our housing in Hawaii. Please support this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:48:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wailana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too much Hawaiian lands have been bought out by foreigners. If we continue down this path there will be no land left for our children and our sustainability.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:14:05 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esera Tuaolo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Esera Tuaolo, and I want to submit my testimony on bill, 2617. I grew up in Waimanalo family of four with a single mother, my mother was a hard worker she provided for us until her fingers bled. We were not homeowners we were renters. My father was a drug addict and alcoholic, and in and out of prison, my mothers, one wish was to provide us a home that was our own, the stream, of course would never come to fruition like many of my relatives. My family members cannot sustain living here and we're forced to move off island. I am the remaining family member still in Hawaii now living in Waianae. My wife and I have been taking care of our debt in efforts to save, and one day purchase a home here, which has been a long time dream of mine and hers. We would like to raise our children here as well as prosper here with the increase in the cost-of-living and wages, remaining the same, he has become almost impossible for us to do so, so we are also forced to rent for rent from property owners who are not from Hawaii, who have not grown here who do not understand our way of life. I'm not submitting the story in any effort for anyone to feel sorry for us because our story is just the same as anyone of our neighbors or family members who are still in Hawaii. I'm submitting this testimony because he is a special place, and it should remain in the hands of the people who were born and raised here. The people who will take care of this place and the space who understand the land, the ocean and its people we are always open to sharing, but I think it's a crime that we are always left last and that the government doesn't have our best interest at hand when we are all suffering. I'm not sure if this bill is 100% of a resolution or even a solution but I know that it's in the right direction And it's bringing light to a lot of issues that we have here. Thank you for your time and your consideration.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:59:42 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
william brede	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 257 resonates deeply with me as a Native Hawaiian who made the difficult decision to leave the islands in pursuit of a more sustainable life due to the escalating cost of living. This bill, which restricts foreign principals from acquiring real property in Hawaii, carries profound significance. It serves as a crucial safeguard against unbridled external influence, ensuring that our beloved state retains its cultural identity and economic resilience.

Having experienced firsthand the challenges posed by the high cost of living, I wholeheartedly endorse this legislation. It not only addresses the pressing need for responsible development but also underscores the importance of striking a balance between progress and the preservation of Hawaii's unique heritage. By allowing only de minimus indirect interests, the bill aligns with the imperative to maintain our home's authenticity while fostering sustainable growth.

In supporting House Bill 257, I believe we are not only safeguarding the interests of the present generation but also laying the foundation for a future where the spirit of Hawaii remains unblemished by unchecked foreign acquisition. This legislation is an investment in the legacy of our islands, ensuring that they continue to thrive as a place of cultural richness, economic stability, and opportunity for all.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:09:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiaka park	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. We are losing our home to foreigners and our own people can't even afford to live in their own home lands it's time for a change. The people of Hawai'i should always come first when it comes to our own home and land!

Thank you

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:13:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmaly Calibraro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is not enough housing for the working population of Hawai'i residents at an affordable price. Luxury condo and luxury home development for foreign dollars to acquire need to stop and be regulated to allow for Hawaii's actual residents to purchase housing.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:16:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Shibata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Bill SB2617. We must protect the interest of locals and residents to ensure the present and future interests of the residents of our state and place are prioritized. Thank you!
Jason

LATE LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:20:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kellsey Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill that hopefully will help stop the selling of Hawaiian land to foreigners. We need to provide more opportunities for ownership for the native Hawaiian people who are deeply rooted and connected to this land.

Mahalo.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:42:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cece Gaines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i is being bought out by more and more foreigners, including out of state foreigners, for years. We are at the point of being chased away because we as Hawaiians/Locals who have been here for generations are being priced out of our own homes. We work jobs that can't even pay for a outrageously priced "fixer-upper". I'm 27 years old and remember watching my parents struggle to pay rent to our ever changing land lords. The people of Hawai'i deserve to be able to live in our home without fear of being bought out by the next high bidder. We deserve to no longer live in fear of our beaches turning into beach front multi-million dollar homes that rip away access of ancestral land and beach from the people. Do the right thing.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:50:13 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalikoonaupūna Kalahiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a keiki o Ko'olaupoko with roots in Kāneʻone, Kahaluʻu, Kailua, Maui, and Moku o Keawe. As a Kanaka whose family has been displaced by the rising prices of housing and cost of living in Hawai'i spurred by foreign entities buying land and property, I stand firmly against any foreign investor seeking to buy land in Hawai'i. As an Indigenous peoples, Kānaka have a genealogical tie to land that has consistently been severed through the Overthrow of the Kingdom, the establishment of the Provisional Government, the creation of the Territory, and finally the acceptance into the Union as a state. We as Kānaka deserve to be living in our ancestral homelands, but instead most Hawaiians live elsewhere. A huge reason for this is the influx of foreign investors driving costs incredibly high for locals. It is a moral imperative that the State of Hawai'i makes good on its promise to support the Native Hawaiians and pass this bill to further safeguard our ancestral homelands from the greediness of foreign investors. A hiki i ke aloha 'āina hope loa.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:51:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Taosoga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:04:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony perez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:05:20 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chesiree Canite	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Im in support of this bill. Hawaii is our home. Home of the kanaka maoli, native Hawaiian people. Hawaiian kingdom has been over thrown and we have been illegally annexed and illegally occupied by the USA. There's no treaty of annexation. So all of the housing market is fraudulent. We shouldn't be selling anything to foreigners, which includes the USA.

let's take care of our people. And fix the wrong of USA. The local and native people First before anyone else.

no more selling the foreigners!

mahalo!

get the USA to follow law of occupation and stop breaking enter national laws.

my family has been living in Hawaii for thousands of years. We come first.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:13:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with this bill

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:15:56 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liz Farr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Please vote to pass bill SB2617 for the well-being and future of all Hawaiians. I, myself, am not of Hawaiian descent but I have been blessed to have lived in the islands for many years. Here I have seen first hand the displacement of Hawaiian families being pushed out of their island home due to the increases in real estate prices pushed by foreign RE investors. The number of Hawaiians in states like Washington and Nevada continue to increase as they are priced out of their birth place where owning a home is a near impossible dream. Please push this bill and make it a priority to support Hawaiians and those who were born in the islands to STAY and not have to fight for a future in their home state.

I speak of mostly HAWAIIANS because they should be given top priority. What will Hawaii be without them? How is it possible to prioritize foreign investors over the well being and future of Hawaiians?

Please, I beg that you pass this bill in support of all Hawaiians who need a home and cannot find one without having to move away from the islands. Those who can no longer live by their grandparents, their aunts and uncles because they have been priced out. Consider that foreign RE investors are tearing families apart and making the islands' own have to relocate just so that they can profit off of it. Please allow Hawaii's own to have a better life right at home where they deserve to be, where their ancestors played and where they are connected to. To continue to back foreign investing is to decimate what is left of the aloha spirit.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:19:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:19:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalani pasco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Priced out paradise , hawaii should not sell land to foreigners that live here part time . We need to provide housing and land for local that work and live full time in hawaii . We don't have unlimited resources we should be taking care of people of hawaii first before anything .

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:24:35 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nainoa Basdavanos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i accept testimony

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:30:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Panoke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:30:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kianna Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because I don't want people who are not from here to be able to purchase homes here on our island or even foreigners. It should only be for local people! People who are citizens and reside here

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:32:15 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylee Makaya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in **STRONG** support of any bills that entail Non-US Citizens **cannot** have any ownership of any kind of lands that are of US soil. **I support this bill** because these people come into our country to buy up all of these different areas of the land to then sell it back to its rightful citizens at much greater, abhorrent prices. This bill is our saving grace as the land of Hawai'i is not only such a limited aggregate of land but also one of the most sought after places to live by foreigners around the world because of its paradisiacal nature and amazing people. We must protect our state from these intruders who only have greed in their thoughts and are seeking to take away opportunities from our citizens/residents who should be the first in line to enjoy and partake in our own beautiful home.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:37:41 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Gee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Senators,

My name is Maya and I am 23 and a local girl who is born and raised on Hawai'i Island. I have watched Hawaiians and kamaaina move away from Hawai'i because they can't afford to live in Hawai'i. Foreign entities have monopolized our islands, leaving it close to impossible to establish family roots. This bill is important to prioritize the lands and property from large monopolies who are simply looking for growing captial. Please support this bill for the future keiki and generations to come.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:01:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Autumn Hesia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I whole heartedly support bill SB2617. As a kanaka who had to move away from her 'āina in order to afford to live, I need this bill to pass in order to come back home to my family. Please pass this bill.

LATE LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:09:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
N. Feki Pouha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai Chairs Lee and Keohokalole, as well as other esteemed committee members,

Mahalo nui for hearing this bill. I fully support this measure in its intent to assert first the interests of Hawai'i residents before foreign parties real property interests.

Being priced out of Hawai'i is a real and growing challenge for residents of Hawai'i, such as myself and many 'Ohana like mine. This measure helps residents with major, familial and other substantive ties to Hawai'i begin to have a chance to retain or reassert scarce real property interests.

While the fear of litigation and refining the contours of the rule of law may be insurmountable by the Attorney General's office and other State Administrative agencies, the interests of residents and not foreigners should be prioritized and is certainly worth the good faith efforts of Hawai'i's government.

Thank you for leading and serving the people of Hawai'i first. Ke Akua pū.

I welcome any follow-up inquiries related to my testimony herein.

Mahalo,
Feki Pouha

fekipouha@gmail.com

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:11:54 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melodie Austria	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am Canadian. My kūpuna are of Hawaiian and Filipino descent. My grandfather (my dad's dad) served as a sergeant of the US army for the pacific region during WWII and died as a prisoner of war against Japan. My dad's eldest sister resides in Molokai. She served as the chief nurse in Kalaupapa throughout her entire career until her retirement. I also have an aunt residing in Honolulu who is a OB-Gyn doctor. I was born in Canada and my primary residence is in Canada so I am considered a foreign entity. I grew up coming to Molokai throughout my childhood and teenage years to volunteer every summer, playing hawaiian mele on piano and dancing hula for the patients in Kalaupapa. I visit Hawaii 2-3 times a year as I dance for a hālau hula based in Oahu. I learn virtually and in-person. I just bought a property in Molokai so that I have something to leave for my kids (ages 4, 8), to inherit so they stay connected with the Hawaiian culture and visit every summer. When I purchased it, being a foreigner, I paid 35% downpayment and higher taxes. The federal government withholds 30% in taxes.

Mahalo,

Melodie, from Canada

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:12:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Azevedo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i is a beautiful place and I am so lucky to not only call this place home, but to be native Hawaiian as well. Unfortunately we have a limited amount of land and resources here the islands, although I am all for sharing our precious home with outsiders who visit, those who come to our home and buy up all our limited lands and use our limited resources are skyrocketing prices and our kanaka are getting prices out. If states in the continental US can have laws like this, why can't we? Our kanaka have no home, we can afford our homes or our familial lands anymore. We're getting prices out. And why should be be forced out of the only place we ever called home? When there is literally no place in the world as special has Hawai'i. If Hawai'i natives get ran out of Hawai'i, is it still Hawai'i anymore? Please ask yourselves this question when deciding on this bill. Mahalo!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:18:25 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stuart Kam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:18:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Wilcox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In full support of this bill, I ask the state representatives to please consider our native people. If we continue to do nothing, one day our culture will cease to exist. Keep Hawaiian land in Hawaiian hands. There is so much more we can do for our people. It starts with doing the right thing. Mahalo.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:27:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Moreno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being of native blood but not actually from the islands of Hawaii, I have seen the lack of knowledge and ignorance that surrounds Hawaii and its culture/history. It has been riddled as a tourist location before being recognized as a home to all the native people, whos ancestors had lived off and nurtured the land. This tradition has been long forgotten by foreigners and non-native/out of state individuals/groups that come to these islands in seek of financial gain off of the very own natives who once lived without fear of being re-homed or displaced due to the commercialization of the land. It is absolutely abysmal and sad that we value profits over the livelihood of the islands own people and it's about time we make a change. Give the island back to the natives or at the very least make it possible for natives to get back homes that were taken by Airbnb hosts, commercialism, and any other foreign parties. We must act now before we lose the tradition of our ancestors. People can enjoy the beauties of Hawaii without having to buy up the amount of limited land that should go to natives first.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:36:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl K Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the Long Overdue Bill

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:47:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Balubar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel this bill would help our local people stay here in Hawaii. I'm tired of seeing foreigners come here to live only part time only to see property tax and home prices go up. This is Hawaii not just an island off somewhere! This place is special, the people here makes it special. If you replace the people that live here by driving up home prices because you want to sell to foreigners, you will lose Hawaii! Please support this Bill SB 2617

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:54:05 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Boyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My father is of Hawaiian descent. Our relatives live throughout all of Hawaii and the mainland. Before I was born, after my father, was honorably discharged from the US Navy, my parents made the decision to raise their family in Hawaii, to be close my grandma Lei, family, and our culture. I was born in Lihue, Hawaii in 1982. My family moved to the mainland, some years after, while I was a toddler, to find better opportunities. Finally, we settled in California. We have always dreamt of coming back, to immerse ourselves in our culture, to learn the language, so we could pass our heritage to future generations and to be closer to family. Now, 40 years later, that longing, still remains a dream. My own children have no clue what it means to be a Hawaiian, besides the knowledge that Hawaiian blood courses through their veins. It breaks my heart because I have little to share with them, since that right was stripped away from me.

Today, my father is in his retirement age. Yet, he is still working hard to make that dream come true for himself. He misses Kauai and has hoped to build on his family land, that his mother passed on to him when she passed away. That land still sits vacant to this day. He flew into Kauai, for a funeral, last week, to bury our Auntie. While there, he visited the homestead office to file paperwork, to pass the land his mother, our grandma, gave to him, to his children. It saddened me to think, he may never be able to go home, due to the costs of building on the land and the cost of living. Just thinking about it makes me weep. Furthermore, my siblings, and I will probably never be able to build on the land as well. We are not millionaires, nor do we have a trust fund. We are displaced Hawaiians who just wanna go home, but since tourism has been the focal point of Hawaii's revenue, and people who aren't from Hawaii are buying up the land and using it for Financial gain or their vacation home, we may never be able to do so.

I beg the Senate to please please please approve this bill. I hope to go home someday to live among my Hawaiian people. I don't want to just visit, to bring my father's ashes home, when he passes away, so he can at least rest in peace in his homeland. I want his dream to come true while he's still alive. I want him to go home to Kauai. I want my keiki's to know what it means to be Hawaiian and how important it is to know that side of them. Please do what is right and pass this bill.

Thank you for listening.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:55:42 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ash Horomona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was raised on the north shore of oahu, my family mover here from New Zealand back in the 70s. I married a Hawaiian and our children are Hawaiian Maori. We recently moved to the mainland because we could no longer afford to live there our goal is to one day come HOME and buy a home we can afford.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:02:34 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Pasikala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill to stop foreigners from purchasing our land in Hawai'i. Our people our being priced out of paradise because of this. Future generations cannot afford to live here and are moving away to find affordable property and taking their talents elsewhere. We want our people to have the option to stay home not be forced to leave.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:04:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ku'ulei Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I've been living in Hawai'i my whole life. Growing up, I've moved a lot because my parents couldn't find a home that was affordable. However, they were fortunate enough to find live in a home that allowed us to work to live there at a beach house property. Because we didn't have to pay rent to live there my parents also worked outside of the beach house to provide for my sister and I.

Prior to my parents adopting my sister and I, they were homeless. They told me stories that they lived in their car and they would contribute to their little group by cooking food for all of them to eat. How they came out of homelessness was years of saving and working hard.

Looking back at my life it was good but at the same time there were many families, many individuals that didn't have the same chance as my family did. Not everyone can afford to buy a home. And if not that rent and utilities are also overpriced so an individual or family can't save money to eventually buy a home.

It's upsetting to see houses be in the million dollar range while minimum wage jobs are in high demand. It doesn't make sense and it needs to stop.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:06:53 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haley Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Haley Miller

3905 SW Brian Ln.

Lees Summit, MO

haleymiller0216@gmail.com

913-638-6848

02/06/2024

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by [briefly mention key points of the bill and its positive impact on the community].

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Haley Miller

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:07:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dustin Dano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My parents, my grandparents, their parents and their grandparents, for generations were all born and raised in Hawaii. We are not able to afford homes or land to call our own. We have to live together if we want to stay in the state. Please stop foreigners from coming in and buying up what we should be able to own. Prices go up, and we are all priced out of our beloved state. Our ohana fully support this bill

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:20:53 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Local people are getting pushed out. This needs to end.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:22:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Howard Uyeda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Local people can no longer afford the cost of ownership due to foreigners purchasing and raising the cost. My kids don't have a chance of owning property at this rate and locals will continue to be leaving the islands.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:23:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryce	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't support hawaii being sold to foreigners

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:28:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charity Ballesteros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii needs to take care of its people. The people who were born and raised in Hawaii. They have born into the right to be able to live in their home because they are the reason Hawaii is Hawaii. They provide the aloha that no one else can provide. Hawaii people should never ever been priced out of paradise. Let local residents be able to afford and buy their homes in their own land. It is their birth right.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:30:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ahren Pang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a local born and raised in Hawai'i, I fully support Senate Bill SB2617, which aims to restrict foreign buyers from purchasing property in our state. In my almost 37 years of life here on the island of Oahu, I've witnessed firsthand how the influx of out-of-state/foreign buyers has driven up property prices, making it increasingly challenging for locals to afford homes. Even having a "good paying job" isn't enough. This bill is crucial in leveling the playing field and ensuring that locals have a fair chance at homeownership, without being priced out by investors or non-resident buyers. It's time to prioritize the needs of our community and ensure that housing remains accessible to those who call Hawai'i home.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:30:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Kiko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it's long overdue. Other states have already passed similar bills because they seem to understand that not everything depends on bringing in the most money, it's the people they serve that's most important. And our people are desperate. Too many are moving away, not out of desire, but because they can't afford to buy a house, even if some already own a house they very well could lose it and have to move away because of enormous property tax that they can't pay on retirement earnings. Once too many outsiders own property here, the culture will be all but wiped out, it's already happening with transplants bringing their ways and practices and changing the face of Hawaii. Knowingly or unknowingly they change the very thing that drew them here in the first place. Once the image is gone, it's gone. We need to stand up for what is right, and what is right is the original people of this land having some place to peacefully rest their head, where they're not worried about land grabs or foreclosure notices ripping that peace from them. Hawaii is not Hawaii without Hawaiians. Mahalo for your time and attention.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:30:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
meagan nolin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, this change could be permanent or temporary for a few years to allow Hawaiians and permanent residents of the islands the ability to purchase their own properties. Foreign investors drive up the price of property and prevent long term housing opportunities for many. Thank you, Meagan

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:31:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kulamanu Ulii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Senate Bill 2617 as it addresses the crucial issue of foreign buying of properties in Hawaii. This measure is essential to protect our local housing market, ensuring that residents have fair access to affordable homes and preventing speculative practices that can drive up prices.

Mahalo,

Kulamanu Uli'i

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:32:23 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kieanney Amosa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I demand that SB2617 be passed. What's TRULY unconstitutional, is the total neglect of the Native Hawaiian people and long-time Hawai'i residents. The State Attorney General needs to push this bill through to prove that the State of Hawai'i actually cares for its own people above all else.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:36:25 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiyana Hallums	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is absolutely long overdue. As a Native Hawaiian, it pains me to see more and more Hawaiians leaving their home in search of more affordable housing. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:37:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paige	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

N/A

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:46:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerome	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose foreigners from buying property Hawaii

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:47:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
iolana corpuz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Iolana Corpuz from the island of Molokai and i support SB2617. I can't think of a better bill to support to reinsure the future of Hawai'i staying in Hawaiian hands, without Hawaiians there's no Hawai'i. Mahalo!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:48:19 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jenny Neal and I am a crisis outreach worker on Oahu. The amount of Hawaiian Natives being pushed to the streets is tough to see, especially when they make up such a small part of the population. Hawaii needs to take care of their own before they continue to sell off their land to outsiders. That land belongs to Native Hawaiians.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:48:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasha Padilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Long overdue

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:49:30 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryson Taeoalii	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I submit my testimony to support SB2617. I feel strongly against out of state buyers but especially out of country buyers and investors who do not wish to live here and who take income out of the hands of locals, kanakas, and those like minded who want to keep Hawaii properties from being outsourced. I believe and have seen and experienced many local families and individuals who cannot afford to live here or who like myself work extra hard to be able to live here. I strongly believe that many locals and Kanaka still believe in good doings and I believe this bill will help balance the economy and reestablish better communities. Many properties and homes are being sold to outside investors which cause high bidding escalations and make it harder for locals to keep up with the increasingly high inflation. I believe this bill is long over due, and will not only help our locals be able to buy a house but could help balance tourism, and help keep in state monies in state.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:50:29 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Espania	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. I do not support foreigners from buying property in Hawaii.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:51:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roman Benioni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this "Long Overdue Bill". I believe that we, the indigenous people of Hawaii, should not be priced out of OUR land. And have more opportunities and access to stay and purchase land.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:51:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maddalynn Seseapasara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in full support of stopping foreigners from purchaing lands in Hawaii to give the people of Hawai aren't forced to leave Hawaii We must keep locals here in Hawaii and the only way is to stop the purchase of our lands to foreigners. Please pass this bill for the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Maddalynn Seseapasara

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:52:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahone F. Speed	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This would be the first step in the right direction since the arrival of westerners that would benefit the native population. I support this bill, and look forward to having this bill implemented in order to help the state of Hawai'i in the long term.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:52:04 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsie Inouye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:52:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheron Bee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It should be obvious why I support this bill. I'm 43, born and raised in Hilo, my grandma was a full blooded Hawaiian who was one of the first families to settle into the homestead of Keaukaha (where I currently reside), and I'm afraid that all of the above is being threatened by allowing people who are NOT FROM HERE to buy up and our land and use our precious resources. I want space for my children, my grandchildren, my great grandchildren.... I want Hawai'i to stay Hawai'i. I want Hilo to stay Hilo. What makes these places special are the people it's birthed. Hundreds, if not thousands, are on the list.... why are we continuing to let people who are NOT FROM HERE buy up all of the land. A few weeks back there was a land auction held at the Edith Kanakaole tennis stadium, it was foreigner after foreigner after foreigner bidding and buying land. Disgraceful.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:52:19 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Lilikalani Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as a local and city and county worker the wages given to us does not allow us to even think about buying homes here in Hawaii without an extra job on top of our already 40 plus hour work weeks. Making it more affordable to have a chance at buying a home here would help locals and natives of this land to stay her and thrive in our own communities.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:54:18 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nohea moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:56:16 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celeste Lewi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

More we allow people from foreign countries buy American Lands, soon it will be overtaken by other countries. Please tell me what other country allow Americans to buy their land?? There must be a vested interest prior to purchasing the land. Did they go through the process of becoming American and paying taxes? More stipulations need to be placed on property in Hawaii and in the Unites States as a whole. Please protect our State and Country against foreign and domestic threats!!!

Thanks,

Celeste

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:56:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Aina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a person that has been born and raised on these islands, I have witnessed firsthand the destruction that foreign investment has brought to the islands. I have watched my once family friendly neighborhood turn into a congested, busy and a "no aloha" city! (Kapolei). My parents that live in Kalihi are seeing the houses next to them be turned into monster homes. This is all due to foreign investors buying up land here and using only for profit. This is an island and we have very limited resources that the whole world seems to think we have a unlimited supply of it. Please help us fulfill our responsibility to our islands and help protect it from further abuse. Mahalo for your time.

Also, I'm a realtor and I would be directly affected by this bill. I believe in my heart that this is the only way we can help protect our islands for future generations.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:56:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse McBrayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We do not foreigners to buy our housing/land and drive our prices up more than it already is.
KEEP IT LOCAL to help our locals stay in hawaii.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:58:16 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Egnatchik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am native Hawaiian. Many of my relatives have moved to the mainland because its too expensive to live here. My son applied for affordable housing in Haliimaile and qualified for an "affordable " home priced at \$750,000 and interest is now at 7%. Their monthly mortgage would be over \$5000 a month. How is this considered affordable??!!

I live on Maui and I am angered that so many haole and foreigners buy up the prime properties and drive up the prices for the rest of us. How many local people do you know that actually live in a home on the ocean? I don't know any at all. Even rentals are hard to find and unaffordable. This is supposed to be Hawaii for Hawaiians and locals but we are being pushed out. This needs to stop. Now.

Mahalo, Lorraine Egnatchik

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:58:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Gage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii needs this. Should've been done a long time ago.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:01:49 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands"

too many Hawaiians are forced to live on the streets or in a household with 2-3 generations living in it. With foreigners coming and buying land, there's no where for the Hawaiians. We are being slowly pushed out of our own 'Aina. E 'onipa'a kakou. Me ke aloha. kimo awong

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:04:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The housing crisis in Hawai'i worsens everyday. I personally have been priced out of being able to afford to own and even just to rent a home in the state that I was born and raised in. My values and the culture of the local people have shaped me into who I am today. It is my dream, as I'm sure it is of the thousands of Hawaiians and locals to raise my family in Hawai'i. I left Hawai'i so that I could work my way back one day, but as foreign entities continue to purchase and develop land into expensive high-rises, hotels, airbnbs and vacation homes the cost of living has sky rocketed. Everyday I invest my life into my work with hopes and dreams that my hard work will payoff, but with every passing day, the dream of returning to the land that nurtured me, the land my mother passed away on and the land that I hoped to raise my children on slips further and further. Please consider Hawaii's history and keiki and support SB2617.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:04:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karlee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian living on the mainland, I some day hope I am able to move home. The culture in Hawai'i as it is right now is taken over by many foreigners and people who simply do not respect our land and culture. It's not the same culture I was born and raised in. It's evident that everyone is trying to make money by using Native lands. The greed and selfishness of the politicians and those who supposedly sought to "protect" the lands are using it as bait and money to fund their own pockets. Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian hands. With out Natives like us with Hawaiian blood, you don't have Hawai'i. Visiting home now seems all too familiar too close to the feels of the mainland so much that many decided they don't want to move home to Hawai'i nei. We need to change that Hawai'i is ours it's not the military's or the foreign businesses, it's ours. It pains me to see my neighborhood in Mililani where I was born and raised in looks too much like a neighborhood in California. Big corporations and Haole food chains wiping away our Culture our Hawai'i because the government is Pilau. We can preserve what we have and make it a more beautiful place when it's given right back to the natives hands. Just as the Native Americans fought for theirs, we seek the same justice. E'o Aloha

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:04:54 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Koa Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617 it'll help Hawaii residents stay in Hawaii, real estate profit isn't the goal of the state it's the prosperity of the people

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:05:42 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kishti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My husband and I are both born and raised on Oahu. We have 4 children, 2 of them grown adults. The ability for our children to buy a home in Hawaii is getting farther from reality. The cost of living, employment wages and home prices make it very difficult for locals to stay here especially if their goal is purchasing a home. There should be a bill like this that prohibits foreigners from buying properties. We need leaders who want to keep Hawaii, Hawaii. Leaders who want to protect and malama locals, our culture and our futures.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:08:45 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Slade Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is my belief that foreigners, most of which have the capability to buy homes here unlike our own people; have more assets, funds, and properties which provides them the ability to fund and increase the value of the property here in our islands.

by doing that, it increases the market value of all the homes in the area, efficiently pricing us out of our own home. and the worst part is that most of these foreigners don't even live here and are just renting it out to other people! or using it as a 'summer home'

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:10:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lehuanani Lilinoe Coloma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is very unique compared to states in the USA, and therefore needs to be protected for it's people. This is definitely a step forward in the right direction. At the beginning of covid, our family put in bids for 5 properties and ended up being at the losing end of a cash offer above the highest offer. Although we are a two income family, we must live with family. I do not want to see this continue for us, other "priced-out of Hawaii" families, nor for our children. Something must be done and I mahalo our legislatures for introducing a solution to this catastrophic problem.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:10:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmelito F. Arkangel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as to ensure an opportunity for me and my ohana to actually have a chance to own land in our land as true kama'āina and not have to be priced out of paradise.

CF Arkangel

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:13:35 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE **LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Alice Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Entertainer Braddah Waltah said it best...keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands!!!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:13:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is Jacob ku, born and raised on the island of Oahu. I am submitting today cause my heart is sore. Being raised on this island I have seen the impact on the people with this issue that is causing a lot of problems. Us locals are being pushed out by all of these investors and foreign buyers. You all know the wages that the people on this island make, and there is no way any of us can afford a \$1.1 million dollar house. We barely can afford a 500k home. With all these foreign people trying to invest and turnover for profit is causing generations of family's to live together in single family homes. This is a big issue and needs to be fixed. Aloha

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:14:48 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kassie Tanigawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stop foreigners. We the people of Hawai'i need home for our 'Ohana and for the future. We deserve to buy home on Hawai'i at a reasonable price. Please support this bill.

Mahalo

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:16:26 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. I believe that this bill is essential for the people of Hawaii to be able to purchase a piece of property/home for themselves and their family. Also it will help keep more of the money here in our economy and not be lost to foreign investors.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:16:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi von Seggern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this "long overdue" bill that will hopefully spark a change in our system to further our drive to keep Hawaii available to Hawaiians and loval families. I'm tired of seeing natives pushed out and move to the continent because they can't afford it here. I'm hopeful that this bill will ignite change to huli the system and allow a path to make Hawaii affordable for its people and only it's people.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:20:15 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My 'ohana has lived within our homeland for generations. My family has a deep connection to Hawai'i, and we hope to never have to leave. However, it has become all too common to see native Hawaiians, leaving their homeland because they cannot afford to compete with foreign investors. It is a shame that the government of Hawai'i would put profit over people and allow foreign investors to continually purchase property, while actively seeing native Hawaiians being forced out of their homeland in troves. Hawai'i is in the middle of a housing crisis and our government should focus on the people of Hawai'i and the current need within the islands. Our government needs to prioritize the people of Hawaii and make sure that those who are of this land can stay here and are not forced out to places that are more affordable. It is my understanding that they believe this bill is unconstitutional. And to those that believe that I ask, do they also believe that the overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom was constitutional? Native Hawaiians are tired of the games and the run around. The generational trauma we live with on a daily basis is already too much, and to see our government actively take part in inflicting more pain upon the Hawaiian community is heart breaking but not surprising. Please do the right thing and vote yes to this bill!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:21:49 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahela Spencer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support SB2617.

Mahalo,

Lahela Spencer

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:23:41 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Mediros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a lifetime resident of Oahu, I lived here my entire life and my generation has never had a chance to enter into the real estate market. The only ones that can, either get money/property from family or they move away and buy a home somewhere else. My grandfathers house sold for \$300,000 back in the 90's to support his medical bills. Our family would like to buy the home he built back, but currently it is 1.4 million. I believe the cause of this is outside buyers coming to Hawaii and buying.

Also as a lifelong resident, I've seen our island move from one where you can buy a house that will last a lifetime to rent a house for the rest of your lifetime. We have seen in Kailua foreign investors buying homes in our city and renting them out as BnBs, but now since it's "illegal" they just rent it out. Our community has moved from a suburb of Honolulu to the largest apartment complex on the island. No one owns anything, everyone just rents until they relent and move away.

Please pass this bill! It doesn't solve all the problems immediately, but it begins the process and we can start making a difference in Hawaii residents one person at a time. Truly changing their lives for the good. Mahalo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:25:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lenore Tsukamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:27:01 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Kaihenui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Take care of Hawai'i and prioritise housing for our own.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:28:05 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantal Keliihoomalu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands.
if we allow lands to be sold off to outside entities what will these lands become. The people of Hawaii are being pushed out -- something has to be done to stop the housing crisis.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:28:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessamina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Enough already! Hawaii so rich, yet so broken in so many areas. How is it that a foreigner can come in and buy land but to live, own, stay on Hawaiian homes land you have to have a specific amount of Hawaiian... and still Hawaiians are still displaced and still homeless, still waiting to get their name on the list..... make it make sense Government. Not all Hawaiians wants to live on Hawaiian home lands, Hawaiians just want to live on Hawai'i & it's barely possible and depressing. So hewa! I support this bill & would love to see it in action. If other countries can do it, we can too. I stand for bill SB2617

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:29:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Malina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that there is a substantial demand from the local community in the housing market. As a state we should be focused on housing our local people first rather than outside buyers. I believe that this bill is a necessary first step in fixing the current environment that we are seeing in Hawai'i these days. The increased robberies and violence that we are seeing now is a direct reflection of the struggles to survive that most people in the state are experiencing right now. If as a state, we let the people know that we are on their side, we will hopefully begin to see a positive shift in the current environment.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:30:45 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cody Tsukamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:33:22 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Char K. Andrade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a resident of Hawai'i Island and native Hawaiian of Hawai'i, I support Bill SB 2617 that will ban foreigners from buying properties in Hawai'i. I believe this bill will help get the housing crisis and homeless crisis under control and make homes affordable for citizens such as myself who would like to continue living in their homeland, not being forced out by the rising costs of homes due to outside entities.

Mahalo,

Char

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:34:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a tax paying Hawai'i resident who has been a public school teacher for over 20 years. I am a native Hawaiian with three young children. I support this bill wholeheartedly. Foreigners should not be able to purchase Hawaii land. We need to take care of our people first and the generations to come that call Hawaii their home.

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

LATE

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Support of S.B. No. 2617, Relating to Real Property

Aloha mai e Chair Keohokalole, Chair Lee, and Members of the Joint Committees,

My name is Lucy Lee, and I am **writing in support of Senate Bill 2617** which would prohibit the purchase of real property by foreign principals within Hawai‘i.

Growing up in Hawai‘i and being able to identify as both kama‘āina and kānaka maoli has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. I am constantly aware that I am in a privileged minority being able to grow up in my homeland. Yet, I and those of my generation, are constantly afflicted by the thought of not being able to raise our own families here in Hawai‘i because of the unaffordability, lack of adequate housing options, cost of living, etc.

I believe that Senate Bill 2617 is the beginning of taking action in the governmental and legislative realm in order to address the issues of Hawaiians being priced out of their own homes.

Again, I am **writing in support of Senate Bill 2617** which would prohibit the purchase of real property by foreign principals within Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Lucy Lee

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:34:31 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Simone Aki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting this bill is supporting sustaining presence of the people of Hawaii. Supporting this bill supports better opportunity for local people of Hawaii to have a closer chance to fairness to economic opportunity.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:37:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for your time, my name is Amber Dagupion and I'm a resident of Lahaina, Maui. My family and I were many who had lost our family home to the fires that swept through our beautiful Lahaina Town.

Since the fire, we have since relocated to Kihei. We were put up at the Maui Banyan for a few weeks before finding a long term solution until we are ready to rebuild.

One of the many challenges we now face is finding long term housing for the rest of our Lahaina Community. Most people I speak with consistently daily are still in hotels. It's tiring after being there since August 8th. It's been a long 6 months. Way to long to stay in a hotel room without a full kitchen, washer/dryer & most of all a family of 4 sleeping on two doubles - HOW IS THIS EVEN LIVE/DOABLE.

Do right by our community and our people. WE ARE THE RESIDENTS. WE LIVE HERE FULL TIME.

Not these people who claim they "LOVE" Maui, especially Lahaina. Let our families stay in Lahaina. We have many people who come from multi-generational households.

This bill is way long overdue. This should have been implementing when timeshares were first introduced here in Maui. At least with timeshare villas... it's a full circle and help putting money in many families. Don't let that stop.

Our community needs to put an end to those buying a piece of land here in Hawaii that are not from here.

I'm in my 30s and I know for a fact i cannot purchase a home where I am born and raised. It's unrealistic and unreachable for a single parent.

Make this make sense. Keep your residents from moving away. Keep your locals in Hawaii. DO NOT PUSH US AWAY. Especially since WE WANT TO STAY.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:38:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miki Tucker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am native Hawaiian born and raised in Hawaii and like many others were priced out of paradise. I had to move to the mainland and find another job just to support my family. I would move back to Hawaii in a heart beat if i could afford it and/or if there were housing/apartments available. Some units sit vacant from foreigners purchasing properties or renting them out to locals at absurd amounts to profit off of us. This will keep happening and getting worse. It's time to do something about it.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:39:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Rita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

It is time to set this Bill in motion and stop foreigners from purchasing what is left of the remaining land in Hawai'i in the past 5 years Dole Foods have sold over 2000 acres of land many of those parcels of land were **Kuleana land illegally** sold to fereingers who dont even hold the land claim titles There are so many unclaimed Kuleana lands that need to be claimed and given back to the ffamilies to live on and work off of the land It is so sad to watch our children who desire to purchase land cant even afford it so they call Las Vegs the 9th island that is a shame. There is no connection of of Hawaiian land to Vegas our families should be given the opportunity to stay here and live off of our lands. It is never to late to make this a possibility and Brenton Speaks up for the people of Hawai'i it is time to take a stand and give back the land to the People of Hawai'i

Thank you for voice

Kathy Rita

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:39:23 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monique Perreira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Hawaiian living in Hawaii most of my life, I strongly support this bill. Having more Hawaiians living on the continent than in Hawaii is not okay. In fact its embarrassing that our State cannot put our own people first. This bill is a first step to ensuring Hawaii is not bought out by foreign entities.

Mahalo,

Monique Perreira

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:39:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Tomlinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Hawaii Legislators,

I ask you to support the the SB2617 bill. This bill would help enable Hawaiians to stay in Hawaii. This bill would help enable Hawaii to keep vital Healthcare workers in our state. Hawaii is the most expensive state in the nation, with wages well below similar cost of living states and cities such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, and New York. This bill would allow Hawaiians and vital state workers a fair and decent chance at reasonably priced home ownership, and a prosperous future, hopefully without having to work three jobs to meet ends meat, and without competing against foreign investors only buying to make a buck, and not a home. Hawaii should not be a real estate parking place for international money or a foreign developers investment over Hawaiian, and local housing desperate needs.

Thank you, Barbara Tomlinson

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:40:33 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:0

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Korey Ann Gayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Benton Awa and his proposed "LONG OVERDUE" bill.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:41:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eva Marie Naganuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

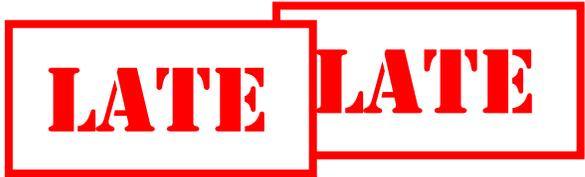
Comments:

Enough misuse of our aina

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:43:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justiana Kalilimoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It's unfair that the people of Hawai'i, the Hawaiians to be specific, need to be waitlisted and meet all these criteria just to own a home on our own 'āina! Enough is enough! These foreigners shouldn't be able to just flash their money and get what they want to build and develop for themselves. It should ALWAYS be about the people of Hawai'i and give us priority. Stop pushing us out! I fully support this bill!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:47:50 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Thomson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o au i kēia pila! No nā Hawai'i 'o Hawai'i!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:49:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aokeaokalani West	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill 100%. It should only be the people of Hawai'i who is able to purchase land. Foreigners should not be able to purchase land so they can go back to their homes and use our land for vacation rentals or high cost rentals. It should only be the people of Hawai'i who spend taxes here, be allowed to purchase land here.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:50:20 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Soong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:50:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Summer Kaliko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge the senate to support bill 2617. The people of Hawaii have been "forced out of paradise" for far too long. Help stop the foreigners from buying property in the state and start helping the local people. There are too many local people renting and living with family and way too many homeless people living on the street.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:52:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Rita Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

As a native Hawaiian I support Bill 2617 to stop Foreigners from purchasing what little land is left for the people of Hawaii so many of the old plantations lands have been sold in large parcels to big firms and sold off in smaller parcels to many foreigners not even local families they cant afford to purchase million dollar parcels. Many of the agriculture lands are being sold to large corporations from the mainland and putting Huge Solar Farms on the lands taking away Prime Agriculture lands. those lands should be used for food we here so many times that we need to be sustainability provide for the people of hawaii what good is Electricity from Solar if we have no food to eat. it is never to late to set in motions and make a Bill to make a stand for the people of Hawaii

Thank you Respectfully submitted

Robert Rita

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:52:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ikaika won	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, local people who have grown up in hawaii raised by families who have lived here for generations can no longer afford to buy homes and are being forced out by non residents. This is absolutely not acceptable and our government has allowed this to happen for too long. This bill must be passed to help the real people who call Hawaii home.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:54:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Blum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support SB2617. As a resident of Oahu and the state of Hawai'i and a non-military citizen of the United States, I agree that this bill will give both Hawaiians and Hawai'i-residents a better chance of owning property and being able to continue living here. Owning any property on Oahu where I live, work, and am an active member of the community is next to impossible. Right now, because the majority of non-residents/foreigners can afford a higher cost than the majority of Hawaiians/Hawai'i residents, it prices out locals. When foreign investors and non-residents purchase property and turn it into income property for foreigners and tourists, it increases the cost of living (because now all rental properties will demand a higher monthly rate since that is the new "standard") and decreases the amount of available properties for locals to rent/buy.

In most Polynesian countries (the Cook Islands and Palau, for example), the law is that only citizens and residents are allowed to own land and that practice works very well. I think it will also prove helpful and effective in Hawai'i.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:55:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

letting foreigners come in and buy up all of our housing is unfair and needs to be stoped. I am native Hawaiian and my family goes back 100's of years and Its sad to say that because of this housing crisis, I may have to leave and that will be the end of my family growing up in these beautiful islands I call home. This bill needs to pass and save the local community!!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:00:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Tai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I don't believe any foreign investor should be able to purchase Hawai'i property.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:00:10 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lehiwa Benson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it helps those who are born and raised here in Hawai'i be in a better place to compete in the realstate market. I am a kanaka who has always dreamed about buying and owning property. Even with a good job that I have now I can not do so. With this bill it will help keep kanaka on the aina. Especially with the agriculture land.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:01:58 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE **LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahakuhailoa Poepoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian, it is already hard enough for us to find homes that are affordable in Hawai'i, and with foreigners constantly purchasing our 'Āina there will soon be nowhere for the local and native people to live. Please consider this bill, as it will benefit us the people of Hawai'i, in getting the homes we deserve.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:02:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shyla Haven	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a social worker who helps families find housing in Hawaii. Many of the families that are displaced are Hawaiian, and they work several jobs but cannot afford to live in Hawaii. The cost of housing continues to grow significantly and much of this is due to foreign investors coming in and buying property. I support the passing of SB2617 so we can see that Hawaiians can stay in their homes, and those that have left can return.

Thanks,

Shyla

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:03:16 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradley Llanes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in Support of State bill 2617. I am a Hawaiian/Filipino native here in Hawaii. I am in support of this bill because I have seen friends and family native to these lands be priced out of paradise because affordable housing and land here in Hawaii is non-existent due to foreign buyers especially during the "Covid-19 Pandemic". Growing up here, I dreamt of owning a piece of property to call my own, fortunately enough, I was able to obtain that. However unfortunately family and friends still are not able to. It saddens me to see families driven out of Hawaii because of the insane costs of property and foreign buyers purchasing property just to leave vacant for eighty-percent of the year as their "vacation" home or to see these properties as their investments. As you've all seen, the homeless populations in Hawaii rise partially due to lack of affordable housing/homes and people having to maintain upwards of two jobs just to make ends meet. As a native here it breaks my heart because during the course of my life I too was homeless and we struggled to survive. Living from paycheck to paycheck, not knowing where your next meal will come. In essence, foreign buyers drive the prices of homes in Hawaii to an unaffordable rate which most jobs on the islands do not pay enough for us natives to afford. I am in support of State Bill 2617!

Mahalo!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:05:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wes Liebe	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill **MUST** pass

For the sake of the Indigenous peoples of Hawai'i, the indigenous plants, and animals. We **NEED** to protect this land from the greed of capitalism that seek to turn land into resorts and hotels, that damage ecosystems, and damage the wealth and life of Native Hawaiians. This bill is a babystep to land back initiatives, and is a **BARE MINIMUM** that should be done for Hawaiians.

This bill is **LONG OVERDUE!** Please pass with humanity in mind

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:05:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keola Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this Bill.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:05:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a Kanaka Maoli that was born and raised on Maui and seen first hand the struggles of living pay to pay check and how hard it is to purchase a house that is within your budget to raise your own Ohana in. I feel that this is a step in the right direction to make home and land ownership in Hawai'i possible for the hardworking middle class Kanaka Maoli. I am currently serving on active duty military and will be retiring back in Hawai'i and it's heartbreaking seeing how much a decent size house with land cost. Forcing a lot of locals to move away so that they can afford to live and raise their Ohana. I am in 100% support of this Bill so that hopefully my Ohana and many other Kanaka Maoli can raise their Ohana in Hawai'i Nei.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:07:19 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Hiraoka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Kai Hiraoka, support bill SB2617 putting a stop to foreigners being able to buy property and homes in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:07:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Van Kure	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaiian I support this bill. I want to make it easier for Hawaiians to live in Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:09:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
malina hoopii-foley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It should have always been in place and will have a positive affect on the future of hawai'i and her people!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:09:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Levi Rita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

In support of SB2617 is so Important to help save our Hawaiiin lands as a native Hawaiian and a Local Rancher we find it so hard to survive here in Hawaii to be a farmer Rancher so many lands have already been sold to large corportions and sold off to individuals who dont even live in Hawaii and only use it for a vacation space and travel back and forth as young child growing up I loved working off of the land living off of the land raising my own Beef, hunting wild pigs and raising my own food it is our culture to live off of the land but if we dont preserve what is left we will have nothning. Evrey day large parcels of land is beign sold to Solar comanies who are not local residents and putting up large solar farms on #1 Agriculture lands that is not right will this bill stop these Foreign companies from purchasing the lands we will have no more Agriculture lands left here on Oahu something needs to be done to save the lands

Respectfully submitted

Thank You

Levi Rita

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:11:45 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tricia Ravey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill a million percent, in 20 years my daughter won't be able to own her own home if we don't do something about housing concerns now. Other states have done it, Canada has too. We need Hawaiian homeowners to be the majority in Hawaii.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:11:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joey Solomon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill banning foreigners from buying land in Hawaii so that we can try to fix the housing problem and keep locals in Hawaii. Aloha

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:12:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiowa Gatewood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is long over due for the perpetuation of native Hawaiians living in Hawaii. There needs to be barriers and support systems in place to sustain the native population for generations to come. Aloha

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:12:50 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joyce Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Against foreigners purchasing Hawaii lands!!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:17:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherri Shito-Leong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The land within Hawaii should be kept within ownership of people who are born and raised in Hawaii. With foreigners purchasing land here, it pushes those who are from here out because the cost of living is too high for them to manage. What is Hawaii without Hawaiians? We need to prioritize keeping land here for Hawaiians.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:17:16 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keyra Candelario	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I believe the Long Overdue bill is truly as it states - it is long overdue that we start prioritizing our Hawaii residents and US citizens for land ownership. As an employee of a furniture retail store, we have a multitude of foreign investors buying up homes and condos purely for rental purposes. They have minimal grasp of the English language, and for the most part are very rude and treat our workers like servants. This is the influx of people you are welcoming into Hawaii purely for money. One day, if this keeps going, there will be more foreign land and home owners than actual US citizens. We need to put a stop to this now, and protect our lands from outside hands.

Mahalo,

Keyra

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:18:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Kop	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to stop the invasion of capitalist while for 30 years we know we are already Housing short for our own. Hawaiians have been squeezed out of their own homes, time to make accountable the Military housing return lands,

let them live in towers & return lands to become productive for our own.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:21:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Morita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the lawmakers, and the people listening to this testimony, first off, I'd like to say aloha. Secondly, I am here testifying Because for the first time, we have a bill that will really help the local people. The people of Hawaii. There is so many people in Hawaii that want this bill passed. However, I am one testimony, and the sad truth is majority Of our people won't even be able to testify because of the everyday grind every day working hard 9 to 5 jobs. 1job, 2 jobs, sometimes even 3 jobs. This is what makes it so hard for people just to sit down and take some time out of our Busy day to testify. We are so caught up in every day grind I strongly feel the reason for that is because we cannot afford to live in our own home.. Finally, we have something that will help our people. So pleas find it in your hearts to do what's right.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:21:50 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darrilyn Alvarez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support 2617 SB RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

Mahalo,

Darri Alvarez

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:22:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi K Akina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Stop letting foreigners buy up our property, they are over bidding us locals and we are losing out on properties. Hawaii land and property should only be bought by residents.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:23:19 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha mai, As a Native Hawaiian who fortunately still gets to live in Hawai'i, it's very sad to see all our properties being bought up by out of state people. We are on an island with limited resources, we should be conserving these resources for our future keiki. For my keiki and their keiki, I'm tired of seeing Hawaiians priced out of our own homeland. Kāko'o piha ka'u 'ohana i kēia SB2617. My family full supports this bill SB2617.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:24:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Caiazzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Jessica "Priya" Caiazzo and I strongly support this bill. Foreign investors have been taking over these islands. Not only that as a resident for over 13 yrs I find this bill imperative, I could never afford a home, my property tax rises in my rental, guess who pays it? The renters. The competition of buying affordable housing land are so extreme. I live in Kahala, and I see so many unoccupied rental units, and then I look at all the homeless. It's unacceptable. The people born and raised are leaving at an extreme high rate. We can do better. This bill is similar to other bills on the mainland already in place. Time to make this happen here. Mahalo.

-Jessica Caiazzo

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:24:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camlyn Pola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:24:34 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaawaloa Kekauoha-Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'll get right to it- prices for home and land in Hawai'i are out of control and getting worse. The supply and demand formula continues to make owning or even renting out of reach for many locals and even more so for kanaka maoli. There are only two ways to build up and out - one ruins the beautiful skyline and the other ruins the beautiful resources.

We are an island we only have so much land. We have individuals buying homes and living on military posts, we have individuals buying homes who have never lived in Hawai'i, we have people who lived in Hawai'i for a few years bought a home and have never come back and these individuals just make money off of the locals and natives here.

The government does not make any rules in the past that make these large business (when it's companies) give back to the communities, roads, etc. When it's individuals many are here for a "good time" and do not get involved in the communities..whether it's by cleanup, mentorship, etc.

These foreigners increase the cost of homes, increase the amount of rubbish, increase the damage to our vegetation, sea life, and the list goes on.

When is enough, enough. Support no foreign ownership... lets take a page out of New Zealands book...lets start caring more for our people and our land.

Do the right thing.

Mahalo,

Kaawaloa Kekauoha-Taylor

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:26:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:26:53 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:27:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brianna McCullen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!! My name is Brianna McCullen I am 100% in support of this bill. I am Born and raised in Hawaii. It is sad and heartbreaking to see family and friends having to move away. I personally have experienced it with my brother and his ohana have moved to the Arizona. We as kanaka should be able to purchase a home here in Hawaii before anyone else. Especially not to non locals or investors. It's hard enough to make a living and stay in Hawaii. This is for our Keiki and future generation.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:28:56 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Serizawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of bill SB2617. This is a step in the right direction of protecting our resources from foreigners. This will open the doors for more ideas of this nature to help local families of Hawaii. My hope is that my kids will be able to raise their own family here in Hawaii like their previous generations have done since the plantation days. Mahalo to all involved in getting this bill started!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:29:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha my name is Ashley and I 100% support Bill SB2617. The reason for that is the people born and raised in Hawai'i have a very hard time to buy homes here because of foreigners coming and buying. If we stop them from buying here the people of Hawai'i can afford and won't be housless, renting or living with family and friends with people that exceed the standard amount that belongs in a home. Me for one I rent with my husband and 2 children, my children/family has never seen a paper saying that we own a house (and mind you we make good \$). Why u may ask? Because prices are so high from foreigners buying, buying, buying the locals/kanaka born and raised can't afford million dollar homes. It's just sickening seeing homes sold for that price or land being sold at a high price, then someone buys that home/land and who do you see walking out the door from that home? Foreigners not locals/kanaka. I'm not saying we don't want the foreigners to come to Hawai'i, we want them to come and enjoy Hawai'i we also want them to go home after they see Hawai'i. Do you know how many places that I've gone to growing up are now locked and gated with a no trespassing sign? Why because foreigners and foreign companies are buying up all the land putting a gate, blocking the locals/kanaka from places we call our back yards. They put up the gates next thing you know/see is million dollar homes and houses and yet they advertise it as "affordable housing". Affordable for WHO? not us who live her our whole lives. This land/home grabbing is to much already, we locals/kanaka need homes to call our own. And not have a foreigner buying it. Enough is enough already we need our local/kanaka families to own homes, a place where my children and future grandchildren can call home.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:29:34 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janelle Matsuura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because we are being priced out of our homes. Priced out of lands that hold familial ties and the roots of our kupuna. New Zealand has long had a law against foreigners purchasing lands and have been able to keep their tangata whenua home. It breaks my heart to know that those affected by the Lahaina wildfires might have to move away because they can't afford to be here anymore. This is long overdue.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:30:40 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Joby Kamalani Flores and I am 63% Native Hawaiian and I am a descendant of Rebecca Awa and Alice Kukahiko. Everyone I grew up with struggled with poverty. My papa had 3 children who are now in their 40's who never were able to afford a home and lived on the beaches. My 6 cousins grew up on those very beaches. They slept in dirt next to multi million dollar homes owned by foreigners who visited once every other month. Many of my family are now dead, never to be afforded the privilege of owning a home on their ancestral land.

I love living in WaImanalo, Hawaii. This is where I grew up, this is where my ancestors are from, this is where my papa raised me. I am 23 and most of the people I grew up with have been priced out. I repeat I am 23. I am terrified that when my grandparents pass away I too will be priced out because the state refuses to prioritize me over foreigners. This bill is the first step to protect the upcoming generations of Native Hawaiians.

I am terrified of what could happen to me as a result if this bill is not passed. Will I be the next Hawaiian priced out of paradise?

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:32:53 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Cacal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do support this bill and foreigners should not be allowed to buy properties and take up possible hone's for local residents.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:33:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Medeiros	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha chair, vice chair and senators...I'm in full support of SB2617 and for numerous reasons and everybody should support this bill. Why? As a Kānaka Maoli and Hawaiian born and raised in Hawai'i from Wai'anae...I've noticed throughout the years that our people continue to be displaced and have to either move from the islands or worse, live on the streets or at the beach, due to the changes in Hawai'i. We've got transplants moving in by the masses daily, foreign developers buying land and building overpriced monstrosities, military coming here for free and buying homes for their families to live in, etc. and it's become a big problem here. Why should we as locals, especially Kānaka and Hawaiians have to move to cater to those not from here? Enough is enough and mahalo to those that introduced this much needed bill, as our Hawai'i continues to change for the worse each day and is starting to become less Hawai'i and more like the continent U.S.A. and nobody wants Hawai'i to be like that. Please support this bill and please let the people's voices be heard loud and clear when we say KEEP HAWAII HAWAIIAN!
Mahalo nui

-Alfred Keaka Hiona Medeiros

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:34:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamaka lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Kamaka Lewis

i am in all support for bill SB2617. As a Hawaiian individual, a son , a father, and a husband, all i can think about is the future wealth of my family and our hawaiian culture. In order for us to thrive we need space, we need areas where we can perpetuate and live for our future generations. If we can eliminate action of people not from hawaii buying lands here this can elevate our hope in thriving and possibly having a property for my family and many others. Aloha me ka ha'aha'a

Kamaka Lewis

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:35:26 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alissa Nahale-Blanco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Passing this bill will allow more Hawaiian people to purchase land without being "outbided" every single time. Our housing crisis is through the roof and most Hawaiians are simply being either displaced due to foreclosure, displaced due to foreigners buying out every home they can get their hands on, or have to move away due to sky rocket pricing. The local people NEED this bill. Thank you Brenton Awa for always pushing for the Hawaiian people!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:35:54 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mia Pasi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Mia Pasi, resident of Hauula in the City and County of Honolulu and I am in support of this bill.

I grew up in Laie Malo'o and later moved to Hauula. I was raised in a place where everyone knew everyone, where Uncle and Auntie next door treated you as an extension of their family, where when they called in their kids for lunch, you were automatically rounded up along with them for a meal. Many of these Aunties and Uncles have passed on, but many of their children who I have been friends with could no longer live here with their children and families because the cost of living became too high for the salaries they were receiving. Some of these childhood friends who were lucky enough to stay in Hawaii live in a home where 3-4 generations are currently living - homes "filled to the brim" with hopes that everyone's income can make the rent or mortgage payment; and these are families who have been here for several decades.

After moving away from Hawaii for a few years, I've returned to find that rent was just as high as mortgages. Small rental units with reasonable and affordable rent were in parts of the island where crime rates were high. I've seen Aunties and Uncles who were fortunate enough to purchase a home, but who have several of their children and grandchildren living in the same home and are teetering on giving up their dream of raising their children in Hawaii and opting to move to the continental US where prices of homes are more affordable.

When did our state government lose sight that their people, the culture of "Aloha" and the sense of community and family is deteriorating right in front of them? What day was it, that they drove past some state and city and county parks, ignoring the fact that more and more local families are gathering there because they are house less? When did it become okay with them, seeing working mothers and fathers preparing their children for school at park bathrooms? When did they stop caring? When did being "for the people" become less convenient for them?

The Hawaii that I once knew of growing up has changed drastically. It's barely holding on to its essence of Aloha. Hawaii doesn't need more foreign investors buying up properties - Hawaii needs state government officials to LISTEN, SEE, HEED and DO what is in the best interests of their people - providing them the opportunity to STAY home and thrive...not to just "barely survive." Hawaii needs officials who will provide affordable housing to the people THEY

are employed to SERVE. Take care of the people of Hawaii and stop sending more of them into the streets or off to the Continental US.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:36:22 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Espinosa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support bill SB2617

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:36:26 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracie Romualdo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting my testimony in support of SB2617. Foriegn interests should not be able to purchase real estate in Hawaii where we have extremely limited amount of property inventory.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:37:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
HollyAnn Kaiakapu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617 for the future well being of Hawai'i and it's true local residents.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:37:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Position	Testify
Robin Gusich-Batara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB2617. It only makes sense when we have limited land resources and ever growing problems of homelessness and homeownership obstacles. Foreign property owners drive up the cost of our housing. If we continue to let foreign interests buy out our and, we will no longer own the majority of our land.

Foreign property ownership also presents a state and national security threat. Other countries have the same restrictions. Let's protect our land for our people.

Thank you

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:37:15 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Filoteo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill to Ban foreigners which should also include mainlanders from buying any land in Hawai'i. No land/ homes should be sold especially because Hawaiians are being pushed out of this land. We are being priced out of paradise by the greedy & this needs to stop!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:38:04 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Maldonado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Fully SUPPORT Bill 2617

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:39:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha! I am in support of Bill 2617 SB. As a local who's lived here my whole life, I have seen many of my close friends and ohana make the difficult decision of having to leave Hawai'i because of the outrageous cost of living. I do not believe that this bill is in anyway a violation of the constitution when locals, native Hawaiians are being denied their own right to life and pursuit of happiness. Native Hawaiians especially have continually been robbed of their ancestral lands to make way for residential developments built by out of state or foreign real estate developers for out of state and foreign buyers. Please make the right decision so that we can have more locals and native Hawaiians stay in Hawai'i. Hawai'i would not be what it is without our people.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:39:44 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawna Perez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to emphatically express my support for "The Long Overdue Bill," a crucial piece of legislation that aims to restrict foreign individuals from purchasing land in Hawaii. As a resident of this beautiful state, my family's connection to these islands spans three generations, and now, as a current resident raising my children here, I am deeply invested in the future of Hawaii.

One of the significant concerns that weigh heavily on the hearts of local families like mine is the escalating cost of living driven by unrestricted foreign land ownership. The influx of external investors can create a housing market that is unattainable for many locals, leading to displacement of families with deep roots on the island. This not only threatens the socio-economic fabric of our communities but also endangers the unique cultural heritage that makes Hawaii truly special.

"The Long Overdue Bill" is a vital step in addressing these challenges by putting restrictions in place to protect our residents and maintain the affordability of living in Hawaii. Without these safeguards, the escalating cost of land and housing threatens to force out those who have called these islands home for generations.

I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of unchecked foreign land ownership on the cost of living and the displacement of local families. Please stand with us in supporting "The Long Overdue Bill" to safeguard the well-being, culture, and continuity of our cherished community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dawna Lopez
485 Laukapu St, #204
Hilo, HI 96620
Dawna.perez@gmail.com
808-896-9196

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:40:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kennedy simmons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

im testifying to support this bill as a resident from big island because us locals are tired of being out-bought from our future and finding homes.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:40:51 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawena Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am supporting this bill because as the name suggests, the protection of native and local rights to life in Hawai'i is long overdue. First and foremost, Hawaiians deserve access to their ancestral and family lands. This is non negotiable. Secondly, locals and especially young locals like myself (4th generation) are constantly being pushed out of our home because prices are unlivable. I was able to save some money because I worked three jobs and lived with my family and just traveled South America for one year. The money I spent would in one year would have lasted me maybe three months at home. It is literally more affordable to travel which includes flights, food, transportation, medical expenses, than it is to live in our home. I often wonder how I will ever be able to raise my family on the land that raised me. None of us know. Priority of Hawaiian lands needs to be placed in Hawaiian hands. Enough is enough.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:41:45 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominic C.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support BRENTON AWA and his campaign in the movement of banning foreigners from purchasing hawaiian lands. The Hawaiian people need their land. It's a shame that we/us Hawaiians cannot afford to live on our homelands. We should build more affordable homes and more Hawaiian housings for the people of Hawaii. A'ole to foreigners and non-local people purchasing and taking land from the people of Hawaii.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:43:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jamie Perry. I am a native Hawaiian and I support this bill. At the moment, my family of four is technically homeless, although my husband and I have both have full time and part time jobs. A year ago we were released from our rental agreement because our landlord was going to sell the house. We tried to look for a place to rent that was in our price range but the market was so competitive that some places told us there were 80 other applicants. We also tried to look for a home to buy, but with prices so high in our home town, we have been unable to do so this whole time. In the end, we could not find a place to rent or buy. All four of us now sleep in one small room in my parent's home(which they rent as well). Our realtor has informed us that some places we looked into and made offers for received cash offers well over the listed price. To be a Hawaiian and not be able to even own a property in my own land weighs so heavily on me. I support this bill because it will at least help to alleviate some of the competition from outside of Hawai'i. Many homes are purchased by those "foreign" to Hawai'i, maybe lived in for a few years, then rented out for for prices that only other foreigners can afford. I pray that we can stop this cycle, and give those from Hawai'i a chance.

mahalo,

Jamie

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:43:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou!

My name is Keala and I support SB 2617! Keeping the housing market in local hands will create a better and more affordable housing situation for residents . I fully support not allowing foreigners and non Hawaii residents to buy houses!

Keala Fung, Honolulu HI

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:45:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrene Alohilani Kanoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Lawrene Alohilani Kanoa. I support bill SB2617. I have lived here in Hawaii for 48 years and have seen the way Hawaii has changed due to foreigners buying lands here in Hawaii. In the 80s, Japanese foreigners bought up real estate and changed the dynamics in Hawaii. We need to keep lands in Hawaii for the people of Hawaii. By keeping the lands here for na poe o Hawaii, you keep the culture of Hawaii which makes our people unique. This world needs Aloha not to make money.

Mahalo piha,

Lawrene Alohilani Kanoa

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:46:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailialoha Dias-Blake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Bill SB2617

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill SB2617, which seeks to restrict foreigners from purchasing land in Hawai'i. As a resident of Hawai'i, I am deeply concerned about the impact of foreign ownership on our local communities, cultural heritage, and natural environment.

Hawai'i is more than just a destination; it is our home, rich in history, tradition, and natural beauty. However, the unrestricted acquisition of land by foreign entities poses a significant threat to the social fabric and identity of our islands. We have witnessed the displacement of local residents, the exploitation of our resources, and the erosion of our unique way of life due to unchecked foreign investment.

By enacting measures to limit foreign ownership, Bill SB2617 will help safeguard our land, resources, and communities for future generations of Hawaiians. It will empower local residents to retain control over their ancestral lands, promote sustainable development, and ensure equitable access to housing and natural resources.

Furthermore, restricting foreign ownership aligns with the principles of self-determination and sovereignty for the indigenous people of Hawai'i. It honors their rights to govern their lands and protect their cultural heritage from external exploitation and commodification.

In conclusion, I urge you to support Bill SB2617 as a critical step towards preserving the integrity and autonomy of Hawai'i. Let us prioritize the well-being of our communities and the sustainability of our environment over the interests of foreign investors. Together, we can uphold the spirit of aloha and safeguard the future of our beloved islands.

Mahalo for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kā'ilialoha Dias-Blake
Resident of Ewa Beach
(808)3479705 - kailidiasblake@gmail.com

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:47:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ailanna Lagmay-josiah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should not allow foreign parties to aquire property in the state of hawaii that has zero interest in living in hawaii full time. It's time to stop this nonsense.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:48:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stopping foreigners from buying out our land for business and pushing out local people who lived here there whole life.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:48:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealii Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kealii Kane and I am 42 years old. I come from a family where community service is vital to teaching the importance of our home. My grandfather was on the DHHL committee and my mother is 100% hawaiian. I am currently at 50% Hawaiian and am sitting on the list for homestead. Unfortunately my 3 children are at 25% and is unable to get on the list. Their only hope for homestead land is if I pass it down. I currently have a brain tumor, lost my job and am living off of savings. What is the outlook for my kids if I pass away. Is it possible for me children to buy a home in hawaii in 20 years? The way things are going I don't see any positive outcome as so many local people are moving off island. Are we not able to grow up in our home state? Please give my children a future they can look forward to in Hawaii.

Mahalo

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:49:25 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lenra Yarnell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:49:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Ann Punua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill in protecting our land from being sold to foreigners. We live on an island and have limited resources that are already over taxed and at their limit.

Hawai'i is not Hawai'i without its people!
e ola

Mahalo,

Lee Ann Anuenue Punua

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:50:16 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malulani Nacnac	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a native Hawaiian, born and raised in Hawaii. My husband and I bought a home back in 2021 during the crazy housing market. The 15th home we put an offer in on was the home we were able to purchase. We were outbid and bought out far beyond our budget for most of the previous 14 homes we went in on. We later learned than more than half of those homes were bought by foreign / Chinese investors who offered \$100,000 more than asking price and quickly purchased the home only to flip it and make the housing market sky rocket even more. Yes, I am lucky to own my home with husband, however we may never have the opportunity to buy another home and I am the only home owner out of all of my siblings who simply cannot afford to purchase a home in this house no market and compete with the foreigners outbidding us locals.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:51:16 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Whitney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do the right thing by the people, Hawai'i will never be the place people love without the Hawaiian and local community. This is the way forward. This is the way to secure a better future for all. This is already happening around the country and world. Please be a leader for others on how to care for community and secure a full and vibrant future for them.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:51:17 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Callie Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree, that only US citizens should be allowed to purchase property in Hawaii. Residents need to be able to afford to buy houses to secure our future generations.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:51:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nohelani Octubre	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a step in the right direction and should have been done years ago. Our own locals especially Hawaiians are so far behind the curve ball when it comes to getting ahead because we start so far behind! Big money has drowned out the little people, I am not Hawaiian but many of my friends and family are. I don't belong here but they do. My husband who is Hawaiian grew up rougher than most and together we built a life on Oahu for our Hawaiians but our home was almost a million dollars. We work hard everyday to own our piece and have something to keep my Hawaiians in Hawaii. Yes, it would've been easier to move to Vegas or Utah but there is no Hawaii and no true Aloha without Hawaiians. We need more of these bills to support housing and education for Hawaiians so this beautiful land and its beautiful people can thrive again.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:55:45 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen of Hawaii with full interest in locals and Kanaka Maoli staying home and not moving away from their ancestral homelands because of the housing crisis, I believe it is vital to do everything we can to prevent that from happening. Radical changes must be made to fix radical issues. The word "Radical" has a negative connotation when it shouldn't. In Latin "radical" translates to "root", meaning that to something radical is to pull an issue by its root. I ask you all today to make a radical decision on bill SB2617 that represents what the people of Hawaii want. Make the radical change that we we need. If there is a will then there is a way. If you have no will, then we the people of Hawaii do not want you representing us as our leaders. I have full support of bill SB2617.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:55:50 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleimakalii Colburn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to all parties involved,

My name is Kaleimakalii Colburn, and I am writing this testimony in support of Bill 2617 sb. As a kanaka, who works a full time job with the City and County of Honolulu, it feels like an impossible dream to one day own my own home on Oahu. Prices are through the roof and properties are being sold to foreign principles, then sit unoccupied. There need to be more affordable opportunities for Kanaka/locals to be able to purchase properties/homes.

Thank you

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:56:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheyenne kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Cheyenne kalama a constituent of Honolulu Hawaii 96822 fully support SB2617. Our focus needs to be Hawaiians lands in Hawaiian hands.
mahalo nui

cheyenne kalama

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:57:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SHAUNA CORDERO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a kanaka maoli I am in support of SB2617. It is long overdue. I am the last of my siblings to remain on the Big Island. Ironically, I was the only one who wanted to leave but never did. Now, my husband and I are struggling to make ends meet as we watch land get gobbled up and kanaka get priced out. There is no Hawaii with no Hawaiians.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:57:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Lei Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

So many Hawaiians have been priced out of paradise. I personally work two full time jobs in order to afford the cost of living in Hawaii. That being said I still fear that I'll never be able to sustain and afford to stay here. This bill is an opportunity to keep more Hawaiians in Hawaii.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:58:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julian Perkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I recently heard someone say that there are more Native Hawaiians living in Las Vegas than Maui. This is not okay. Locals are being forced out of their homes due to the unrealistic cost of living. A big factor of this is due to foreigners coming in and buying up the land. This needs to stop. For once lets focus on what's best for the local residents and especially the Native Hawaiians.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:00:49 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Bourke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am for SB2617. Anything to help local residents live in Hawaii. Foreign buyers buying up property, and not living here, helps to artificially inflate the value of housing prices. I hope SB2617 helps to bring down the price of housing, and open up existing housing supply for local residents.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:01:53 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Ker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill in limiting foreign buyers from purchasing homes in Hawaii. Local residents, native Hawaiians can no longer stay and buy property here. They cannot afford to raise their children in Hawaii. The foreign buyers often do not live here or contribute to our economy otherwise, they rent their units and have no ties to the local community or people.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:03:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Layla Abellera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's about time! I **strongly support** bill SB2617!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:05:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Abraham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:05:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoë Kaiakamalie Shimizu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB2617.

Mahalo,

Kanoë Kaiakamalie Shimizu

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:06:05 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Layton Gomez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Layton Gomez would like to stop the buying of our homes on Hawaii and allow us natives to be able to purchase living situations instead of moving away from our roots. As prices go up gradually and income not moving along with that it would be best for non residents to not be allowed to purchase home for their own financial growth, as we the people of Hawaii have no opportunity to keep our family name and grow as one family in Hawaii.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:06:23 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ainaaloha W Ioane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a Native Hawaiian and multi generational ohana of Hawaii, and I support this bill. The Governor has issued and declared Hawaii to be in a state of a housing emergency. As there are more Native Hawaiians living outside of their Native land of Hawaii because the cost of living is too high, and the real estate market places living at home outside of the economic reach of not only Native Hawaiians but most of the working class of people in Hawaii.

I support this bill and more such attempts to support Hawaii 'ohanas living at home.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:06:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hercilia Sevigny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Allowing the continuation of foreign investors to obtain land in Hawaii needs to stop. As a Native Hawaiian, I've seen the destruction outsiders have caused our land with the unnecessary developments for the sole purpose of profit. Hawaii has always been about community and helping each other in order to coexist. But that has become almost impossible as we are unable to grow and develop together as said community when the land is being purchased by outside investors and driving up property taxes. This makes it extremely difficult for people who are actually native to this land to buy property for themselves and their families. It's resulted in the majority of Native Hawaiian families having to leave Hawaii all together and Hawaii will eventually cease to exist without the presence of Kanaka Maoli and our Aloha for each other and our 'āina. If we put a stop to allowing foreign investors into our already limited space, I believe the people of Hawaii will have a chance to rebuild and keep our culture alive.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:07:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barry Quilloy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protect these lands for the people of Hawai'i for generations to come. Stop the outflux of local families and give them the advantage to stay on the soil they grew up on. It is sad to see our people moving away due to the cost of living / wage earnings that in places elsewhere make it easier to save money to purchase necessities. Here in Hawai'i we are already at a steep disadvantage. Please consider this bill as a step toward retaining our 'ohana here on this soil where they belong. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:07:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela M Britten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in extreme favor of bill SB2617, banning the purchase of real estate by foreign buyers. I am a resident, born and raised in the islands. I have seen real estate costs skyrise to obscene levels. I can't afford to purchahse a home in the only place I've ever called home. My daughter, who is in college in another state, may not ever come home due only to the cost of housing. I am not alone. Foreign buyers have contributed to an intense lack of affordable and dignified homes for our people and we can no longer stand by and welcome foreigners (and out of state buyers) with open arms while our own people are a paycheck or medical expense away from living on the street - if they aren't already there. Do the right thing for our people.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:09:39 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Kepa‘a	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of SB2617.

In a time of crisis where local and k̄naka ‘ōiwi families are unable to afford living on their ‘āina hānau, it is imperative that we halt foreign investors from purchasing our lands. Often, these foreign-purchased properties turn into rental income properties with no benefit to k̄naka and locals, being put on the market as vacation rental units or other short-term rental properties for foreigners (including U.S. citizens of which Hawaiian nationals are not) to utilize during vacation. With every property sold to foreign investors, house values go up and k̄naka and multi-generational local 'ohana become displaced at an alarming rate, forcing a mass exodus of our beloved people to places with a lower cost of living, places which will never be our home in order to survive. While I realize that "foreign" entities being addressed by this bill realistically categorize no more than probably 5% of the market since the State fails to recognize Hawaiian nationals as being part of a separate independent nation-state (in contradiction to our recognition by the international court as such), I believe this is a step in the right direction. Please ban foreign sales of our precious ‘āina for the sake of those of us born and raised in these islands, and for the sake of our keiki and our mo‘opuna. What is Hawai‘i without k̄naka? We are of the land. I ask that you consider the long-term ramifications of continuing to allow sales to foreign investors. Think about your children, your grandchildren, your parents, and your grandparents. What would your k̄puna think? What will you tell your children and your grandchildren when they tell you they can no longer afford to live in their home? What will you tell your great-great grand children who you will never meet in this lifetime who will be forced to live on foreign soil because they were priced out of their homelands and had no control over it because of decisions made prior to their birth? You have the power to make a very important decision for all of us. And i trust you will make the right decision. Mahalo.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:10:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ira masaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii local I feel like it's become unreasonably. Hard to acquire a home. I rent a home in a beach community and within the last three years I've watched almost every available home in this area go to a mainland or foreign person. The area I live is not designated For Airbnb rentals yet there are many of those in this neighborhood and it's turning it into a town with so much foreign traffic. I had many local friends here and now when I go to the beach in the evening, I don't know a single person. What I'm getting at is the fact that obviously locals are having a very hard time staying where they're at because of the price of what's happening with the housing market. I feel like local people are giving up and moving to the mainland because of this. Something needs to be done, we can't just let foreigners take over everything we have. We grew up here. This is the place we love and we deserve a fair chance. Please consider doing something to preserve our island community. Thank you.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:11:18 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainehe Kaleiohi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No more selling houses to people out in the mainland no more over priced housing, i cannot even afford a living a comfortable living with every single person that is not from Hawaii. I want our land our culture back to how it was before everything changed and got over thrown, i am sick and tired of everything trying to live in Hawaii nowadays is so much harder than what is was when I was younger.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:12:35 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pieter Makana Vliet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support the passing of this Bill to not allow foreign investment / Usage for property in the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Pieter Makana Vliet

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:12:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kaiulani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I support this SB2517. We don't have a housing shortage. We have foreign investors owning property and do not LIVE HERE! The State of Hawai'i failed its Trust obligations of (n) native Hawaiians under the Admissions Act. 65 years of corruption and under the Democrats. We demand change. The AG wants to talk about Constitutional Rights? She she look at the States obligations under the States Constitution and not turn a blind eye to the rights of its people of this land under Article XII.

The State should be taxing foreign investors who do not occupy these homes and purely for speculation. Restrictions should be added for investments for owner/occupancy should be no less than 10 years. Penalties should be considerable through the taxation and sales to remedy the existing problems of Land speculation.

Mahalo a Ke Akua pu

Kaiulani J. Lambert

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:12:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassidy Kailieha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Cassidy Kailieha. I'm in support of this bill simply because it's what is right. As a Hawaiian, but even more that I'm a mother, the thought of my kids not being able to experience and live in their home for the rest of their lives due to high cost of living and little to no affordable housing availability is truly devastating. Hawaii is our home before it's a dollar maker. Being of Hawaiian descent and being able to live in Hawaii means so much more than just surface level. This bill needs to be passed. For the sake of our people and for the sake of Hawaii's future. The people make Hawaii, HAWAII. And if you keep selling to foreigners, one day, if not already, we'll have too much money minded people who don't care about the culture, who don't care about the way of life, the diversity, the ALOHA, and all the things that make Hawaii, Hawaii. Stop oppressing our people and pass this bill.

Mahalo Nui,

Cassidy Kailieha

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:13:41 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracey Duarte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill due to myself as an indigenous Hawaiian person believe we should have housing and land available at any given time!

as of now there are NO properties available to rent or buy

Shame on the people who have had a chance to govern our Hawaiian Islands for choosing to not help the local people of this land

Tracey Duarte

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Aloha ka kou,

My name is Ceara-Ann Ka'akimaka. I was born & raised on the island of Oahu, specifically Hawaii Kai. I attended Hawaii Public Schools & graduated from Kaiser High School in 2009. I went on to graduate with many other kanaka from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2015. I was then recruited by Pepsi Beverages Company to begin my professional career. I began my career with a \$52,000 annual salary & progressed throughout my 7 years working in Hawaii with Pepsi. By 2022, I was making \$110,000 annual salary – but it still wasn't enough.

I was a single mother of one, at the time. Struggling to make ends meet – the cheapest rent I could find was \$2,350 & that only increased as time went on. Thankfully, I didn't have to pay for child care, as my family was able to watch my keiki. I can only imagine the kanaka that cannot afford to pay their rent/mortgage, child care & still find a way to feed their keiki. By April of 2020, I was paying \$3,600/month in rent.

I left Hawaii in January of 2022 for Orlando, Florida. The home that I was able to live in was a brand new & beautiful townhome with a two car garage & gated with amenities. I only had to pay \$2,500. Groceries were cheaper, gas was cheaper, life was cheaper.... But my heart longed to come home. When I would visit, I was astonished at the continued escalation of prices to be home. Groceries, gas, life in general..... Every time I talked to a friend, someone was considering leaving the islands. Heartbreaking.

I left Orlando to come to Denver, Colorado in September 2023. Even here, I have a 2,000 square foot home with a two car garage, fully finished basement & I only pay \$3,400/month.

Thankfully, God has provided an opportunity for us to return home to Hawaii. We are in the process of relocating & I now make \$143,000 annual salary – but it still isn't enough. We were lucky to find an older townhome rented out by a kanaka to live in.... but that's not what we wanted. We wanted to purchase a home, for our roots to grow – our keiki to have that childhood home instead of hopping from home to townhouse to maintain a lower cost of living. We can't do that because of the foreigners/haole coming in & taking the Hawaiian lands out of OUR hands. At this rate, my keiki will never have a childhood home. They will never be able to bring their keiki to Tutu's house one day – because Tutu will still be hopping from home to home paying someone else's rent...

I beg you to omit the haole from purchasing Hawaiian lands. Hawaii residents are what make HAWAII HAWAII. Keep Hawaii Hawaii – keep the culture alive and true. Let us live where we were meant to be. There are so many kanaka I've met here in Colorado that wish they could go home, but they simply cannot.

To the honorable folk reading this, I beg you to stop this chaos & keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands.

God Bless You & Mahalo.

Ceara Ka'akimaka

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:13:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 P

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi Carvalho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I 100% this bill for the future keikis of Hawaii. Foreigner land ownership is driving cost of living up that the people of Hawaii is being priced out of paradise. This is harmful to our economy of Hawaii. The Foreigners are monopolizing our land, properties and taking over Hawaii. Foreigner land ownership must STOP.

Mahalo for your time,

Brandi Carvalho

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:13:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaika kailiawa-smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon,

My name is Ikaika Kailiawa-Smith. I am writing today to voice my support of bill SB2617. My family is originally from ka'u, I grew up with my dad working the plantation and have seen the damage that unchecked interest can do to a landscape. Today there is still fishing ponds filled with rock that washed down from the old plantation roads because it was cheaper for them to use gravel instead of doing the right thing and building bridges.

Why do I bring this up? Because like we see today when the land and local people were used up and the plantation could make more money somewhere else they left locals to pick up the pieces. They sold off big swaths of land to foreigners, forcing local families to leave.

How long do we allow this? How much more relatives have to die in the mainland because they couldn't afford to stay home due to the housing and land shortage? How much grandmothers must die alone here in Hawaii because their kids have to move off island? Recently I lost my grandmother, I was lucky enough to be able to move back to Hawaii a year ago and my kids were able to meet such an amazing woman. Sadly after the short 12 months here once again we are looking for a home to rent. Due to foreign ownership and investment homes are hard to come by.

Foreign entities buy homes that they have no intention of using or renting causing massive housing shortage. They continue to push for gentrification in places that have Hawaiian bones due to their lack of understanding and care for cultural practices. They care more about the almighty dollar than the people that have called this place home since its founding.

The AG says this type of bill is unconstitutional but there is already precedent set. In the state of Virginia adversaries of the United States are banned from owning any real estate. Due to the nature of the world that list is ever changing. So it is much easier to do like the state of Arkansas has done and remove foreign ownership of land and resources.

For these reason and so many more I urge the senators and representatives to support and pass this bill, We the taxpayers depend on you to represent us and our interests.

Thank you for your time.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:14:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Steinmeier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For the betterment of humanity. We can no longer let the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Housing is a basic human right and need. And it should not fall into the hands of the greedy. Everyone deserve to be able to put their own roof over their heading. Making housing affordable for this generation and for future generations. Giving us a chance to work hard and strive for a better life. Right now, even by working hard and being a good citizen, it is impossible to achieve a roof over your head without giving up your livelihood in the process.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:14:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maluhia Stark-Kinimaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB2617 prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring property in the State of Hawaii. I am a Native Hawaiian born on the island of Kauai. I have an Engineering degree from Stanford University and work two stable jobs to make ~\$70,000k a year as a single, 27 year old woman. The same is true for many of my childhood friends who moved back to their homes in Hawaii after college. This may seem like a high amount earned for a young single individual. However, with the cost of living skyrocketing, and wealthy foreign individuals buying the limited amount of land in Hawaii, it is unlikely that I will ever be able to afford to buy my own home, despite my full academic merit, work ethic, and effort to achieve this goal. Even worse, foreign individuals who partake in this action raise the cost of living and further exacerbate the issue. How are we supposed to compete with multi-billion dollar hotel chains or real estate developers making an honest living? All I want is to raise my children in the same place where I was raised with stability and security. To buy a home near to my parents so I can take care of them when they are old. To live in a community where the houses are full of families instead of homes sitting empty as vacation rentals for foreign profit. As the dynamic now stands, no matter how hard I work, this will be impossible. The lifelong residents of Hawaii need this bill to continue living in our ancestral homelands.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:14:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annette DeAnda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2617 which would regulate and/or prohibit the ownership of real property to foreigners for the following reasons. It is imperative to stop allowing foreigners to purchase and resell and own real property in the state of Hawaii as this drives the market value up and adds to the inflation of real property value. Allowing foreigners to purchase real property here in the state of Hawaii also decreases the availability of property at actual value for local businesses and residents. Generations of families are not able to purchase real properties due to foreign investors driving up the cost in the market, forcing the hands of locals to either 1) stay renters, 2) having to live in multi generational dwellings too small to accommodate living space needs, 3) move out of state in the pursuit of happiness in the form of affordability. All state born residents should be given a fair fight to pursue happiness in their home state should they choose to. I further believe this bill should include a maximum amount of real property ownership by out of state investors as well for the same above reasons. The housing market is outrageous across America for the first time in history. Where not only are local Hawaiian families not able to afford home in Hawaii, but other states' locals are experiencing the same effect we have felt for decades. It is time for a change which is long over due!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:15:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i has seen a steady climb in foreign investors and buyers that its causing a decline in locally owned purchases through out Hawai'i. As more are being pushed out of Hawai'i It makes me oppose this bill.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:16:03 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlie Kaohelaulii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. Hawaii is already overrated with rich people buying our lands like Zuckerberg, Grove Farm, Gay & Robinson who owns most of the land on Kauai. Our own people cannot afford to live here or even compete with these rich people to purchase any land, that BELONGS to the Hawaiian people anyway. I support this bill in hopes that it will cut down the overselling of our aina.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:16:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Habu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this Bill,

I know multiple people who have left the state because they are unable to afford a home here and there will be many more who leave.

Thank you

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:17:29 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Togiaï	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in total support of this bill. There are other countries that forbid foreigners from buying property in their countries, they keep it for their people so that they will always have a place to live as citizens of that country. How can it be unconstitutional when the foreigners don't even have to abide or respect our constitution? They are not citizens of the United States.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:17:48 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The state has prioritized outside monies over local for decades. The reason people from all over the world want to visit and live in Hawai'i is BECAUSE of the locals and the aloha spirit that we know and live deep in our hearts; not some commercially superficial presentation. People feel the authenticity of local aloha, kindness, compassion and stewardship of the 'aina and its people. There is no Hawai'i without Hawaiians and locals to support what our host culture has taught us. The biggest need for Hawai'i to continue to be a worldwide leader is to keep as many locals here as possible which begins with housing. Sustainably priced housing needs to be the top priority so that locals can stay and continue to perpetuate for generations the special values and connection we all hold here. This is how we maintain our position globally as well. Protecting our people and the land first and allowing tourism and outside money thereafter. This has been done in many states and countries and protects the uniqueness of each place.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:18:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Scardilli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support and infavor of SB2617

Support this bill due to : the limited lands here in Hawaii is necessary for residents of hawaii and not foreign bodies or entities to purchase Hawaiian lands. The Hawaiian Islands are great but small in land size that permissible for building.

Support and in favor of this bill because when I was a real esate agent, I seen more shady documents from foreign businesses and foreign bodies offering cash that normal, everyday people can't compete with. Foreigners are driving up the price of homes and trying to squash the little guy.

Supporting this bill because: The constitution is supposef to be there to protect the residents of Hawaii and NOT to protect the foreigners rights to buy the islands... Just look at how much land the already rich own of Hawaii... I fear if this bill doesnt pass, then soon Hawaiians and residents wont have a home in Hawaii.

Thank you,

Amanda Scardilli

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:18:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mailani Puli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Kanaka Maoli, this bill is one that truly is for our people. My family and I had to move away from our home for 10 years in order to create a better outcome for ourselves. When we finally were able to move back to Maui, we could not afford to purchase or rent on a combined income of >\$150,000 for a family of 3 until we were fortunate enough to purchase a home from DHHL (Hawaiian Homes). We were constantly being outbid by foreigners who could pay cash significantly over asking price. We fear for the future of our children. Kanaka deserve to live on the land that we are indigenous to, without having to fight against others for the limited housing available. As a Kanaka Maoli, I support this bill.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:18:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this Bill 2617.

This Bill should have been introduced long long ago, but better late than never. Many residents of the state have moved to the mainland due to lack of affordable housing. It's about time that the Legislature take a long hard look at the facts that Hawai'i housing is out of reach for the majority of residents. Hopefully sensibility will prevail versus greed.

Thank you very much.

Noela von Wiegandt

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:19:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Cheng	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii voter I support SB2617 that prevents buying of real estate by foreign principals, The people of Hawaii take priority.

Thank you,

Jessica Cheng

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:19:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kes Phillips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our lands have been taken and looked at by outsiders as investment properties which resulted in pushing away so many of the local families who were born and raised in Hawai'i to live elsewhere. I fully support this bill to stop foreigners from buying property in Hawai'i.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:20:16 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellie Tyler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The people of Hawaii can no longer afford to live here because people from the mainland keep buying properties and raising the cost of Homes and cost-of-living altogether. Support the local people before Supporting the people from elsewhere.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:20:28 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Yoshimitsu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support of SB2617 to restrict foreign principles from acquiring real property in the State of Hawaii.

As a native Hawaiian and lifetime resident of 'Oahu, I have witnessed foreign investors claim overwhelmingly large amounts of land as second homes, vacation rentals, large business and other investments. This has driven the price of homes, rent and land in Hawaii so high that it is practically unattainable for the local population. This has pushed many of our native people out and forced them to look in other states to realize their dreams of owning a home or running a profitable business.

Building more "affordable" housing is not the answer. This "affordable" housing is not actually affordable for the people that qualify for this option. According to a post on khon2 the average household income is \$107,348. Many online mortgage calculators state that with this income a family can afford a home that costs about \$386,000. This is assuming \$50,000 down payment (most locals don't have that much saved), 6% interest and no HOA or AOA fees. There are only very small condo units available for this price that would not be suitable for a family and the new affordable housing starting prices are well over this amount.

By implementing restrictions on foreign principles gaining access to Hawaii property we can start to restore balance to the housing market and move toward actually affordable housing for our Kama'aina.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:21:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Dung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian and Hawai'i resident for most of my life, I am in full support of Bill SB2617. I was born and raised on Oahu, grew up on Hawaiian Homelands, attended college at the University of Nevada Las Vegas and then came back to Oahu once I graduated college to start my own family. My husband and I are both government workers and devote our 40 hours per week to public service. As hard as we've worked to get where we are in life, attaining our own piece of land on the island we've called home for most of our life seemed unobtainable. Instead of reaching our own dream of home ownership, we instead had to settle by moving in with a parent and obtain home ownership that way because the cost to purchase was too out of reach and would get outbid by those who were not native to Hawai'i and had cash in hand. This bill is very much needed in order to keep more Hawaiians in Hawai'i and to really give us native Hawaiians a chance to continue to live and grow our families and future generations here in Hawai'i, where we belong!!! Enough allowing foreigners to come here and buy land and homes for profit only!!!! That is hewa!!!! We Hawaiians want and need the land for our future generations so that we as a people can thrive!! Please put families before profit and pass this bill!!!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:22:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii's finite land and resources needs to be protected from foreign interests, which focus on purchase solely for profit. Hawaii is not Hawaii without its local people, and especially the native and indigenous kanaka of the land. I am speaking as a native Hawaiian who has been displaced, now living on the continent. Too many locals are priced out of paradise because foreign investors with deep pockets have swooped in and driven the market up exponentially, for decades. We are seeing the unfortunate repercussions of these purchases by the mass exodus of local and native Hawaiians being forced to leave the land their families have lived on for generations. As much as ignorant people want to say "Hawaii is a state like any other state," it is NOT, and needs to be recognized for its unique history, particularly when it comes to how the locals and native Hawaiians have time and again NOT been protected or considered. It is time to prioritize the people who are the true stewards of the land, who respect, appreciate, and most importantly, are invested in taking care of and maintaining the integrity of this precious land and its resources.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:22:29 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke Sims	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It is long overdue. I think that in the long run this bill will ensure that it will be attainable for native Hawaiians to own their own home in their home state. The housing and commercial markets can no longer be ran by foreign powers that do not have an interest in the sustainability of Hawaiian land and culture. I am 33 years old and my partner is 40 and we are nowhere close to being able to own a home here. Foreigners are able to buy up property and own their multiple homes (many which sit vacant for half a year or more at a time while Hawaiians are homeless on the street) but I would like to just own one home in my lifetime. Just one home to raise a family in as every human should have the right to. It is so depressing knowing that I will never own a home while listening to tourists say to our face "Oh we love it here, we have a vacation home and visit about once a year" while I am struggling to keep my lights on and pay rent in a 500 sq ft studio while contributing to society and the community here every day while the non residents take and take and take with no give. The locals don't need 3 vacation homes, we need one home just like the foreigners and non residents have in their home states. Even finding a decent home with space for a family to rent is near impossible. The local children here are our future and determine where our Hawai'i will be in the future, however, if the only land and property owners end up being non residents and foreigners, this will eventually no longer be the Hawai'i we know and love. It may not happen now or overnight, but history dictates that there will be consequences.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:22:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caitlyn Stokes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As our Islands become overpopulated with foreigners who have the assets and power to take control of our land, we are losing to a never-ending battle constantly. The current generation is questioning how we will ever be able to afford a home or support our children's future. I support Brenton submitting the law to prevent foreigners from purchasing land so we could make it more affordable for young families instead of people who own the house just to have tourists come and go. Hawaii is already overpopulated with tourist as it is there needs to be something that needs to get done. If nothing gets done are beautiful Hawaiian Islands who no longer be paradise.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:22:48 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laulani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill Senator Brendon Awa is submitting to ban foreign buyers from purchasing land in the state of Hawaii. I am a native Hawaiian born and raised on the island of Molokai. I served 11 years in the United States Army to come home to Hawaii to struggle to survive all while watching my island home be bought up by the highest bidder. We need to take a stand for our tax payers here in Hawaii. I fought for our constitution literally went to war for it when will our constitution and our state officials fight for us the tax paying citizens of Hawaii.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:22:54 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raenell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

States all over the US are pushing bills just like this. Allowing the people to buy homes where they were born and lived thier entire lives first. Allowing people to buy homes here without even coming here is ridiculous. Allow our people better access and resources to be able to own homes and land here. Especially our hawaiian people. Hawaiian homes already take a lifetime to get. Atleast allow us to purchase one on our own before giving an easy option for foreigners. The people if Hawaii need to be heard. Need to be understood. We elected these officials. Yet we fight them.

Bill: 2617 SB RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY
Stephanie Velasco
February 5, 2024

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CPN/TCA
Hawaii
CR 224 & Videoconference
Honolulu, HI

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB2617 - Prohibiting Foreign Principals from Acquiring Real Property

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill SB2617, which aims to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property, with certain exceptions. This bill addresses critical concerns related to the potential influence of foreign entities on our state's real estate market and safeguards the integrity of our communities.

The provisions outlined in SB2617 are both timely and necessary to protect the interests of our state and its residents. The proposed legislation defines a "foreign principal" and establishes clear guidelines for ownership and acquisition of real property. By requiring foreign principals to register ownership with the Attorney General and mandating buyers to provide affidavits attesting to their non-foreign principal status, SB2617 adds an additional layer of transparency and accountability to the real estate transactions within our state.

The authorization for the forfeiture of real property or an interest in real property acquired unlawfully further strengthens the deterrent against any potential abuse or violation of the proposed restrictions. Such measures are crucial for maintaining the sovereignty of our state and ensuring that our real estate market remains a fair and just arena for our citizens.

While I acknowledge that the bill declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025, I firmly believe that the long-term benefits of safeguarding our state's real estate market against potential external influences far outweigh any short-term financial constraints.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to carefully consider and support Senate Bill SB2617. By passing this legislation, we take a significant step towards protecting the interests of our state and its residents, promoting transparency, and maintaining the integrity of our real estate market.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will make the best decision for the well-being of our state and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Velasco

svelasco95@gmail.com / 323-719-6274

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:27:50 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ethan Onipaa Porter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, Chair Keohokalole, and Vice Chair Fukunaga,

Mahalo for taking the time to hear Senate Bill 2617 relating to the purchasing of land by foreign principals. I am in support of this bill, but I have concerns.

In theory, disallowing foreign principals from purchasing land is an easy way to reduce competition in our real estate market that will incentivize land sales to local residents. The logic is sound; if there are fewer buyers who are going to simply use the land transiently, then developers and real estate salespeople will sell to long-term residents who need the housing.

While I endorse this proposal, I believe additional legislation is necessary to provide stronger incentives for the real estate market to prioritize sales to long term local, preferably Native Hawaiian, buyers.

Mahalo for taking the time to consider this bill and further ones that will assist our future generations to live in their land.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:23:34 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 P

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Satele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:23:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jelacia Freitas-San Agustin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill for the people of Hawaii. We are tired of getting pushed off of our lands due to the greediness of others.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:23:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Ries	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Erik Ries, fully support this bill. Outside investors should not be allowed to take away land and housing opportunities of those born, raised, or residing here. I would go even further to show support for the indigenous people of Hawai'i to have priority over all others in this matter. It is time to give the land back to Kanaka Maoli, it is time to keep housing and land costs affordable to local, multigenerational families, and it is time to support those who chose to live here full-time over those who simply want an investment opportunity from abroad. Please strongly consider passing bill SB2617 so that Hawai'i can remain in the hands of Hawai'i. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration. - Erik Ries

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:25:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sadie Saffery-Doi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. As a Native Hawaiian trying to stay in Hawaii with my family, I hope there are changes made so that we can all stay here in our home. This bill is the first step.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:26:58 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maikalewa Keamoai-Koka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB2617. It's crucial to safeguard our real property from foreign acquisition, which can drive up housing prices and threaten the affordability of homes for local residents. This measure ensures that foreign principals cannot acquire real estate in our state, except for de minimus indirect interests, protecting the interests of our community. Additionally, the requirement for buyers to attest they are not foreign principals adds an extra layer of accountability. By enacting this legislation, we prioritize the needs of our local population and preserve the integrity of our housing market.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:26:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Agustin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Chris Lee, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

Subject: Senate Bill 2617 Relating to Real Property

February 6, 2024

My name is Malia Agustin, and I am a concerned Native Hawaiian testifying in support of SB2617.

I support this bill and feel that Hawai'i should no longer be up for sale to foreign buyers/non citizens. The Native people of Hawai'i are less able to afford the cost of land and are living in low socioeconomic conditions that impact the health and wellness of our people. I am a granddaughter, daughter, wife and a mother of generations of farm owners and lei makers. I feel that this bill would help to prevent foreigners from purchasing large acreage our farmlands. We were once thriving, but are now competing with foreign businesses and invasive pests. By enacting this into law to prevent foreign ownership of our lands, we can help to perpetuate our culture and people by giving more opportunities for affordable land ownership to locals and Native Hawaiians. It makes sense that if Americans are unable to purchase lands in foreign countries, that purchase of our lands be restricted to foreigners. Unfortunately, I am unable to speak via ZOOM or in person as my husband has a surgery today, but I hope in writing you are able to grasp the deep necessity for this bill- seeing that even through a family emergency, I have made time to testify. I feel SB2617 should also be looked at as emergent. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support on this matter of great importance to our future Native Hawaiian generations.

Mahalo,

Malia Agustin

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:28:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maverick Aipa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not much to say besides that it's impossible for locals or even a dual income family living off minimal wage income to afford let alone live a life here, youve put in blinders and the only thing the people in charge see now is money and the greed for self preservation while they let those down they e sworn to protect and preserse, the states is going to shit and this bill would be finally a step in the right direction, although we'd had to run about 80 years worrh of steps in that direction to even get close to the righteousness that Hawaii should be. Housing for locals, and stopping the increase of homeless people from mainland being shipped here. The people will get sick of it, look at mainland American, they're close to civil war. Won't be long till someone finally says enough is enough here

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:28:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammi Gumban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo nui I am in support of SB2617.

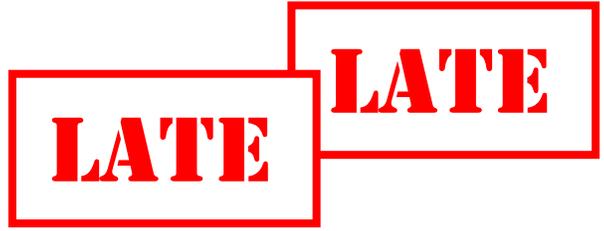
It is time to take a stand, we are already being pushed out of our place we were all born and raised on, struggling to survive- and foreigners comes in with all their Mola, buying up all our precious land.

Hawai'i will no longer be Hawai'i and a place we call home if we continue to allow easy access to outside foreigners- ..please pass this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:29:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleihua Kamaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha My name is Kaleihua Kamaka and I support SB2617, The long overdue bill. I believe it is time Hawai'i stops selling our native lands to foreigners. We need to focus on keeping Kanaka Maoli on our lands.

Mahalo Nui

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:30:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theodore Molale III	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:30:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay-R Mangauil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am born and raised in Hawaii. Many generations. Kipapa ohana. Although I may never afford to buy a home here for my family and I. I will die trying. Please pass this bill so I can one day have a chance to live out this dream of mine(to own a home in Hawaii). I work for the state of Hawaii I have a clean record I am a family and a God fearing man and the last thing I want to do is move my family away from this place we call home. Do the right thing. Aloha

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:30:42 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariah Berard-Kamakeeaina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill! Being a native from Hawai'i who had to move to the mainland because I couldn't afford to purchase or rent a home, I hope to move home one day and be able to purchase a home for a price that is doable for the average salary in the state of Hawai'i. We need our people to stay home and to come home. Hawaii belongs to the people of Hawaii not anyone else. It's the right thing to do.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:30:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert "Kealoha" Domingo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB2617. As kupa'āina, a Native Hawaiian, an active community member and most importantly a father of four sons born, raised and residing in Hawai'i, I feel strongly that bold measures must be taken to help assure our future generations ability to live and thrive upon their "one hānau" their birthsands.

The words " Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono" are displayed prominently on and around the halls of the Capitol in which your business is done, and should serve as a constant and staunch reminder to you. Please take measures to be sure that our future generations can truly understand and live this to the fullest extent. I encourage you to be bold and pass SB2617, not for me, but for our children and our children's children.

me ka ha'a ha'a,

R. Kealoha Domingo

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:31:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rochelle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because foreigners are slowly buying up land that the people of hawaii are being forced out of their own homes and moving to other states. As an individual who was born and raised on O'ahu and a new/first time mother, i want to be able to raise my son in hawaii and the only reason it's possible for me to do it is to live in a house of 7 other individuals to help pay for mortgage, food, and other expenses that help keep our family afloat. Not only that, but other homes that are for rent or sale, are not ideal for raising a child due to all other properties being bought by foreigners. The only available land are the run down, broken homes that have multiple problems that cost a fortune to fix on top of it being already overpriced. Please pass this bill to help not only our present people, but our future generations as well. It's already years and years too late but we can help solve this issue with this bill. I believe this will also help hawaii become hawaii again. In addition, i think this can help local businesses flourish again.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:31:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taelyn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For the generations now & in the future

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:31:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briana Uiti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. A local woman born and raised here in Oahu realizes that allowing foreigners to buy up land/properties only makes opportunities for me and others like myself more scarce. That is why I oppose this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:32:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleionalani serraio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with this testimony and support it to the fullest extent. We Native Hawaiians have been pushed out of our lands for too long.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:32:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kareen Takushi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai!

My name is Kareen Takushi, a native Hawaiian and I fully support Bill SB2617. I truly believe that foreigners shouldn't be allowed to purchase homes or land in Hawai'i. Our people are struggling to live here because of the cost of living and now it seems almost impossible to buy a house. At the rate our economy is going, our children won't be able to afford living here, in their native home. The local residents should have priority to purchase a home or land. This is Hawai'i, we don't want our home to be invaded by all these foreigners.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:33:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amelia Walthouse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support because individuals native to the islands of Hawai'i have experienced too much displacement on land that they are entitled to.

SB2617

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Dear Sirs:

I am in favor of SB2617 to control foreign ownership of Hawaii homes.

It is a big contributor to the high prices of homes, that our local families cannot afford.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Richard Mori

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:33:46 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaydence-Lee Nohea Woolsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a native Hawaiian born and raised on the island of Moloka'i, and have resided my whole life. Moloka'i is unique, to where more than half the populace is Native Hawaiian/Aboriginal Hawaiian. This number holds as there are Hawaiians who were able to buy land or inherit land, and pass it down. Unfortunately, most of the generation below them, my generation, leave Moloka'i as soon as they graduate from High school. This is mostly due to an extreme lack of affordable housing. If you don't have Section-8, don't have parents that can accommodate you, or don't have homestead somewhere in the family that you can build on, your fate is either move to a different island, or America.

Moloka'i is plagued by snow birds. Every year we get a surplus of non-native Hawaiian individuals who come from anywhere else in the world to live here for 2-5 months out of the year. Their homes remain empty, save for a care taker or weekly cleaners, for the remainder of the year. This method is popular with individuals who are older and retired, having made enough money to come reap the profits of their age. This is common knowledge. It is a slap to the face to those, like me, who struggle just to stay Hawaiian (filled with aloha) in Hawai'inei.

This bill is a stepping stone for the smaller folk, the native folk, and I pray ke Akua will bless the hands who are putting in the movement.

Mahalo for your time.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:34:03 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Oguma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:34:29 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our precious resources from the ‘aina, wai, Kai and its people are what makes Hawaii beautiful. We as kanaka have been entrusted with a great stewardship to malama and protect these precious resources as our previous ancestors have done for our future generations to not jus survive but thrive. We face trying times with the cost of living and keeping our kanaka firmly planted in their native land which is nearly impossible to do. But through the help of our lahui we’re able to support one another the best we can to remain in our place called home. This is why I support SB2617 to keep Hawaiian lands for the people of Hawaii and prohibit ownership of Hawaii lands to foreign interest. Let us not forget the US illegally overthrew Hawaii and has been recognized by United States of America President Clinton of such injustices. Therefore, we as a Hawaiian people are reminded and recognized our our rights. We have the right to see fit of how to move forward for the invested interest of our people and our native lands.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:34:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Talatala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:35:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sheena pinnow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our local people are being priced out of our homes everyday. Rent has been at an all time high for years, just as much as a mortgage however with the salaries here our people still can't qualify for a mortgage. The cost of homes have increased insanely high due to the amount of investors coming down and buying out everything, building and selling to foreign people. It is time to put our people first, help our local people stay, let them have their american dream of owning a home here where they grew up.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:35:42 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Qwincey Walker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Firstly I would like to stay that I fully support senate bill SB2617 that states that foreigners should not be able to purchase and own land in the state of Hawaii,

As a 20 year old I am concerned about how much land is being bought and sold to foreigners. As a result of foreign investors buying, building and selling houses on the only affordable properties available they have raised the cost of an average lot making it almost impossible to buy a piece of land for people my age to build a house. Overall I'm concerned that people my age and future generations won't have an opportunity to own land.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:36:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawai Kauwelo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill !!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:36:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anuenue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being a Kanaka Maoli who had to move out of Hawai'i just to afford a living, i hope this bill goes forward. Locals who have been living there for their entire life are struggling to make a living, better yet by a home because everything is so expensive. When mainlanders, who more than likely make more because of the cheaper living style in the continents are able to purchase homes. If we keep letting non locals buy property, soon enough, Hawaiians will own no land. And the land that we do own, that has stayed in families for generations, will be taken from us too.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:37:20 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Bauer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose any foreign entities purchasing land/property in Hawaii for any reason.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:38:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE **LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nyla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

foreigners should not be able to purchase land in Hawaii

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:39:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaitlyn Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kaitlyn Evans. I am a young Native Hawaiian adult, born and raised in Waiehu, Maui, who recently was fortunate enough to be able to buy a house with the help of my parents. Had I not been so fortunate to have the support of my parents, I do not think I would have the funds to do so on my own. This is the case for many of my friends and family members.

The price of living here is part of the problem, but adding to the problem is the need to compete with foreign investors who purchase property in Hawai'i without any connection to this 'āina. Rather than it being purchased by local families in dire need of a home to raise their keiki, properties are sold to be turned into rentals and vacation homes that sit vacant for most of the year.

Getting "priced out of paradise" has become the norm for many Hawaiians. Many of my peers have unwillingly resorted to leaving their 'āina kulaiwi and forcibly disconnecting themselves from their cultural birthright because of affordability. Others continue to scrape by the skin of their teeth, clawing their way up to the simple goal of owning a piece of property here. Living in multi-generational homes over flowing at the brim at an attempt to salvage some money and build their savings, working multiple jobs and never getting rest.

This bill gives me and all those families I described hope that there is a better future if not for us, for our keiki and their keiki. Please give us a better chance to be nourished by our own 'āina, and raise families that can continue to stay culturally grounded. I stand in support of SB2617.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:39:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the pass of bill SB2617. It is only right and fair that we keep Hawaiian lands in the hand of Hawaiians. Is is our kulena as Hawaiians to perpetuate our culture and with that comes our responsibility to malama and protect our land.

What is the reason not to pass this bill? Greed. To be nice to foreigners. They have no right to our land that was stolen from us to begin with.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:39:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alena Totten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alena Totten. I am resident and native of Kahalu'u, 'Oahu.

I am in support for SB2617. I strongly believe that the ability foreigners have to purchase property is a disadvantage for residents of Hawai'i. Locals and natives already struggle with the cost of high living in our islands. If foreigners were ineligible to gain property it could give residents of Hawai'i a fighting chance to own property.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:39:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Simonson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a native Hawaiian with the privilege to live here, I encourage you to support this bill. I have 'ohana who are Hawaiian who have had to move away because of skyrocketed home & rental prices. Hawai'i needs to put Hawaiians and locals first. PERIOD. Foreign investors do nothing for our 'āina except drive prices up, create more traffic and push their ideals of what Hawai'i should be without regard for who we are. Please give Hawaiians and locals a chance to live on their own land. DO NOT allow the Mark Zuckerbergs of the world dictate what happens in Hawai'i.

As Uncle Waltah said, "Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands."

Mahalo nui for your time,

Jen & Jordan

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:40:42 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Fredeluces	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a born and rased tax payor of the State of Hawaii, I find it difficult to live in my home state and to afford a home when the market is flooded foreign buyers and investors. This not only pertains to luxury homes/apartments but to also family properties, houses, apartmetns. As a tax payor of Hawaii we are one of the highest taxed states in the country and have to contend with out state buyer makes lifes frustrating, stressful and heart breaking. If the state keeps letting foreign investors buy in Hawaii, they are not full time residents thus do not pay the taxes that I do which does not go back to the State of Hawaii. I FULLY support SB2617 to keep the housing with the local people of Hawaii and to keep foreign buyers/investors out of Hawaii.

LATE

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RE: SB2617 ; Hearing Tuesday February 6, 2024

Aloha Honorable Committee Members,

We appreciate the opportunity to testify for SB2617.

The Cannabis Society of Hawai'i is in support of this bill.

If you love Hawai'i and the people that make it special, please pass this bill.

Without this bill and opportunities to provide for families, Native Hawaiians will continue to have to leave the island.

This will start to movement for families to be able to afford a roof over their head and have money to feed the keiki.

Mahalo to Sen. Brenton Awa for introducing this bill.

Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to go over our testimony in detail.

Thank you,

Cannabis Society of Hawai'i // cannabissocietyofhawaii@gmail.com

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:41:23 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB2617

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:41:30 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Kauanui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill to stop foreigners from buying properties in Hawaii. Cost of living is so high in Hawaii and allowing foreigners to purchase property drives and cost up for our local community. Many other states have already implemented a similar bill and have had great success with it

Please sign this bill and get it pass for our Hawaii Ohana

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:41:41 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chara Kekona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is way overdue. Our precious lands are limited and time and time again foreigners show that they do not respect us or our land. Land back little by little. Push this forward so we can keep land in the hands of Hawaiians and local families who will be dedicated to protecting it. No more getting priced out of paradise.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:41:42 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lena Keanu-Reichel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian I urge leaders to support SB2617. More Kanaka Maoli live outside of Hawai'i than in our ancestral lands and I am unfortunately one of them. Instead of poi my daughter's first food was a strawberry. It pains me to watch foreigners with no ancestral ties buy up Hawaii for what they can gain; many of these homes sit vacant thought the year while a large percentage of Native Hawaiians remain housless. Ask yourselves, does it make sense for Native Hawaiians to be houseless in our own home? We are forced to leave our homes because of foreign investments in real estate. This bill will DIRECTLY impact Native Hawaiians and other local residents doing their best to live and work in Hawaii. I am a Kamehameha Graduate, received my BA in Music from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and received my Master of Divinity from a seminary on the continent. I served as a Board Certified Chaplain in Oahu hospitals and yet none of my education or professional accolades were enough to keep me home in this housing crisis. Please make the pono decision and support this Long Overdue Bill so Kanaka can come home.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:41:50 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Treston Solmirin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a born and raised Hawai'i resident whose family has dated back from many generations, I strongly support this bill. For too long, Hawaiians and locals who continue to keep the culture, land, and its people thriving, are forced to find ways to try to even survive the cost of living and hardships in Hawai'i. Lands taken away for commercial buildings proving that even when you fully own land, they could still take it away from you because of their own greed and selfishness. Through personal experience, my family has suffered from land being taken away for the rail and was forced to take what they give or nothing at all. It's heartbreaking seeing Hawaiians and locals being forced to move out of state because the cost of living and pay does not coincide. Families being ripped apart because they can no longer afford or continue to set roots here even while working multiple jobs. Foreigners or foreign investors purchasing property or land and selling to price Hawai'i's people out of paradise. These same foreigners sometimes never set foot on Hawai'i nor understand or care about the land, culture, and its people. By supporting and implementing this bill, Hawaiians and locals will be able to better afford the land that they love and care for, all while keeping their families together.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:42:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darcie Aina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support of SB2617. Hawai'i should be for Hawaiians!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:42:50 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 P

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B Reveira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:43:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I live in Mō'ili'ili. I'm writing in Support of SB2617. We need to keep Hawaiians on Hawaiian land and local families who have been here for generations here. It's ridiculous already! Over 50% of my family and friends have moved away because they can no longer afford to live here. It's depressing, we have to do something about it ASAP!

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:43:03 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Akau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with this. Pass this bill help out people.
Aloha

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:43:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanden Matsushima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am support with this bill to stop foreign and out of state people/business buying land and property here in Hawaii in efforts to give back land to the locals and to reduce the cost of housing.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:43:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JEFF SNYDER	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Real estate should only be purchased by United States Citizens. To allow foreign nationals to purchase real estate in Hawaii undermines our national security and impacts the preservation of Hawaiian culture.

Housing is a main reason that natives and locals have to move off island because of the cost and limited resources.

Hawaii should be focused on the people that live here and are U.S. citizens before selling real estate to foreign nationals that drive up our real estate prices and are not invested in our community and culture.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:44:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Bourke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. The only folks who oppose it have a financial interest in foreigner buyers acquiring property in our state- real estate businesses and developers.

They say SB 2617 will hurt Hawai'i's economy because it will prevent foreign investors from creating affordable housing, among other projects. Well I think we all know that they haven't been doing a good job of building affordable housing to begin with.

It's no surprise really- any investor's main goal is to make money. So why would you continue to let foreign principles profit off of the painful housing market that your actual constituents have to deal with?

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:44:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ululani Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon,

I am a Native Hawaiian hapa citizen. Due to real estate market I have been pushed out of my ancestral home.

I have two masters degrees and have been a high school teacher on the mainland for the past decade. I know I can never live in Hawaii on a teacher salary, due to how expensive real estate there has become.

Please stop the selling of Hawaii to foreign entities. Support local Hawaiian people as well as those who are on the mainland because they can't afford to live there anymore.

This is not unconstitutional, and on some level, I think you already know that. You are not protecting people of the land, locals, or indigenous folks by allowing the foreign purchase of our home to outside purchasers who often do not even live in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Ululani Miller

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:44:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael earl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I as a born and raised part Hawaiian resident absolutely support this bill. Aloha my name is Michael Thomas Ikaika Earl and I do believe what makes Hawaii is our culture, our people, and our locals. Let's put the people first and stop driving our locals away. Allowing foreign buyers to buy our already limited number of properties will in no way help the state or the people. Most of these houses are second or third vacation homes with nobody living in it full time which means a local family will probably be unable to compete with buying a home in Hawaii. It's all ready pretty cutthroat with all these mainlander moving to Hawaii and not conforming to how people do things in Hawaii but how they do things where they are from which is probably why they left. We know how important it is to keep the locals in Hawaii and this is just a small step to helping make that happen

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:46:03 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaylene Barron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill for the State of Hawai'i of the Kingdom of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Gaylene Barron

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:47:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leea Kalilimoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the prohibiting of foreign principles to purchase real property as a native Hawaiian that lives here in Hawaii

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:47:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealoha Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Commitee members,

I'm writing to say how much I support the law that is being considered to put this issue to an end. The name of this bill is the perfect way to exemplify how long overdue this problem has been and how badly it has been impacting the people of Hawai'i. This action is nothing short but a way to protect the social, cultural, and economic fabric of our Aloha state. As a young woman who has grown up in the most special place on earth it breaks my heart to see many families moving away due to the expenses or foreigners buying them out. This is not right and this bill is the only hope for the future of Hawai'i. I support bill SB2617. Mahalo!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:48:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mele Maumalanga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS IN HAWAIIAN HANDS! Please kokua & stop selling our aina to people who have NO CONNECTION. NO ALOHA. NO MANA! To our lands. I ask that you think of our native Hawaiian people & how much we have endured/suffered for so long. Please hear our plea. Much aloha!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:48:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelana Cambra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of this bill and I believe it is so important for native Hawaiian residents and the housing issues. Investors and out of state residents are hurting the housing for us Hawaiians that have been here for generations. I hope that this bill passes and we can move forward and fight for what we deserve! EA!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:48:30 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hope Whitney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Kindly ask our legislators to please Support and pass this bill. As a Kanaka who's Ohana as well as my self were priced out of Hawai'i it has been a constant struggle to find a way to be able to come back to Hawai'i. With the current Socioeconomic Crisis it's is beyond impossible for Kanaka like myself to to return and own property on our own One Hānau. We have been forcefully disconnected from our 'Āina and our roots due to foreigners being allowed to come in and purchase land. We Sincerely hope that you take the people of this land into consideration. Mahalo Nui Loa

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:48:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
elton Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am a Native Hawaiian born and raised on Oahu, we need to look to the Future and change our thinking Hawai'i is a unique and precious place to live. We as residence, native Hawaiians and , American citizens we need our right cared for by our elected officials. We need to know that we have affordable life sustaining property within our budget to purchase so we can live out our lives. We're not asking for anything more just do your job and protect your people. You have a responsibility a duty and you have been elected to do what is right for the people of Hawai'i. We believe this bill is one of the first steps to move forward for all people who live and work in Hawai'i.

A concerned citizen/native Hawaiian

Elton AK Johnson

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:49:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zeona Nahooikaikaholohokulani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Zeona Nahooikaikaholohokulani, do testify to stop the sales of any and all land in Hawaii to foreign entity. Hawaiians are homeless because you keep selling Hawaiian land that is not yours to sell. All stolen Hawaiian land at gun point while Hawaiian children sleep in cars and go to school in Hawaii. You know the truth. Testimony after testimony after testimony. The shame is on greedy Realtors and Foreign Banks in Hawaii including Bank of Hawaii. Bishop Estate, DLNR Alexander Baldwin, false ownership with false documents with false notary. You know the truth and still you choose to steal Hawaii's land for your profit. Enough. Kupunas are sleeping on the beaches you sweep like garbage. KKK attitude needs to leave Hawaii now. Evil greedy laws created by Evil greedy Banks and Realtors Associations lobbyist, who spend millions of US dollars to steal Hawaii Land and sell for profit while Hawaiian children go homeless. Shame on the State of Hawaii for allowing laws to be created for personal gain. Look at all the carehomes from Marco's and Cayatano regime. Perfect examples of foreign land sales. Million dollar homes on our mountains as our water rights are taken away. No integrity from the State of Hawaii. I submit my testimony today. Thank you wake up please.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:49:48 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desiree Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

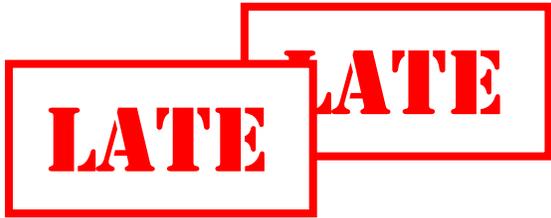
Comments:

Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:50:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawehi Moderow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For our keiki

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:50:50 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Ka'ikena Scanlan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Enough is enough. Keep Hawaiians in Hawai'i and stop selling our 'āina to foreigners!!!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:50:51 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Forsythe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:50:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosalina Maders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am supporting this bill as I feel unless potential homeowners intend to live here permanently, they should not be allowed to purchase homes here on Maui.

I feel many of our own long time residents want to become home owners and should be given fair chance to buy a home in Hawai'i. Some of my own Ohana are moving out of Hawaii because they are being priced out of paradise

Mahalo

R. Leilani Maders

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:51:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Andricci	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I 100% agree with this!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:51:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa J Nobriga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against foreigners from purchasing any Hawaii property. As a Hawaiian born and raised in Hawaii and having a lot of my immediate relatives have to move to the mainland due to being "priced out of paradise", it is your due diligence to see that foreigners are not allowed to buy land which should be offered to those Hawaiians as it is their birth right and land of their ancestors. You must stand for the people of Hawaii who voted for you to make the right choices for the people of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and I pray you make the decision for the people of Hawaii and not against the people of Hawaii. Mahalo,

Melissa Nobriga, born and raised in Hawaii

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:51:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Bill SB2617

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill SB2617, which seeks to restrict foreigners from purchasing land in Hawai'i. As a resident of Hawai'i, I am deeply concerned about the impact of foreign ownership on our local communities, cultural heritage, and natural environment.

Hawai'i is more than just a destination; it is our home, rich in history, tradition, and natural beauty. However, the unrestricted acquisition of land by foreign entities poses a significant threat to the social fabric and identity of our islands. We have witnessed the displacement of local residents, the exploitation of our resources, and the erosion of our unique way of life due to unchecked foreign investment.

By enacting measures to limit foreign ownership, Bill SB2617 will help safeguard our land, resources, and communities for future generations of Hawaiians. It will empower local residents to retain control over their ancestral lands, promote sustainable development, and ensure equitable access to housing and natural resources.

Furthermore, restricting foreign ownership aligns with the principles of self-determination and sovereignty for the indigenous people of Hawai'i. It honors their rights to govern their lands and protect their cultural heritage from external exploitation and commodification.

In conclusion, I urge you to support Bill SB2617 as a critical step towards preserving the integrity and autonomy of Hawai'i. Let us prioritize the well-being of our communities and the sustainability of our environment over the interests of foreign investors. Together, we can uphold the spirit of aloha and safeguard the future of our beloved islands.

Mahalo for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Justin N. Hagmoc
Resident of Makaha
Email: Bigj3012003@yahoo.com

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:52:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimi Brede	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“Inā e hala ke aloha mai ka nā‘au o kānaka, a laila pau nō ‘o Hawai‘i” (When aloha leaves the hearts of kānaka, Hawai‘i is no longer Hawai‘i.” Auntie Nāpua Stevens Poire

Keep letting outsiders in, and eventually all Hawaiians will be displaced. More than half the kanaka maoli and kama'aina now live on the US mainland. So sad that our fake state officials don't want to preserve one of the most minority groups of people in the world.

It's happening right down the street in Wahiawa as we speak. Chineses investors bought 2-3 local houses and now have turned it into a 3 story apartment building. You think it maybe brought work for locals. Well it didn't. All the construction workers all speaking Chinese to one another. I walked by many times and every time I hear mandarin I believe.

Another problem you may not be aware of. I want you to check on ownership of some of these "game rooms." The one on Ohai street in Wahiawa is owned by Chinese. I know this because that was a friends family house and they had to sell it because cost of living was too high. It ended getting sold to foreigners. They use this house for illegal means. Gambling, drug sales, and I would even expect prostitution come from this house. There are many more like this. And when they shut down, they just buy up another property because the owners still live in China, not here in Hawai'i.

Another issue: My grandfather just passed in October. He lived in Kailua. After the passing, we got mail from local addresses asking to purchase. The weird thing is these multiple letters all were stamped out of state.

Bottom line, we need to keep Hawai'i Hawaiian.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:52:19 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Rich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that sacred land should be protected and put foremost to indegebous people of the land. This bill would help the current housing crisis we have already , and especially after the August 8th fires of Lāhainā.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:52:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edmund Rosenfeld	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The time is now Before Hawaiians are left with nothing!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:52:58 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aztin Pitt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, to whom it may concern.

I am Aztin Pitt, a junior from Castle High School. I am in support of HB2617 because because our house prices are getting raised because these foreigners are bringing cash when us locals don't have that. We all know if we pay with cash, then it'll more likely that the person with cash will get it. It's not fair to locals that we've been living here our whole lives and suddenly foreigners are coming and making the prices go up. I care about this bill because the locals shouldn't have to compete for houses with a foreigner. I want the legislature to take action and give our locals more prority on our land.

Mahalo,

Aztin Pitt

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:53:15 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB 217 . It is a positive path to keeping Hawaiian lands for the people of this place.

I ask that the legislature take a strong look at every possible way to look at this issue from the lens of the people of these islands.

I SUPPORT SB 217.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:53:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
colt kalaukoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a junior at Castle Highschool. The problem we are facing is foreigners are coming into our homeland making our propety taxes rise without knowing the consequences or effects it has on the locals of Hawaii. They come here with all this money building huge homes which raise the property tax and now all the surrounding neighbors have to pay. I care about this bill because its not right pushing the locals out of their homes due to prices they can not pay. We need this legislature to stop letting the foreigners coming here and buying all of our land.

Mahalo,

Colt Kalaukoa

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:54:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Committees on Transportation, Culture, and the Arts and Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Kala mai, I was unable to get my testimony in 24 hours before the hearing, but I have hopes that my testimony will still make it to you before the hearing.

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I am a resident of Lahaina, Maui. I am writing in strong support of SB2617, relating to the prohibition of foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state. Hawai'i has, and has had, a housing crisis and this is a major step that we can take to protect our people's interests.

In Lahaina specifically, every day a local family moves away. We have homeowners who are exhausted by the bureaucracy who have decided to sell to the highest bidder. While we cannot legislate that choice out of their hands, this is a small initial step that we can take.

I am sure that you will receive opposition from outsiders with personal interests to this bill's proposal, but it is time that we prioritize our people over profits. As Senator Awa is calling this, it is the long overdue bill, and I hope that it moves forward today with that understanding at the forefront of your minds.

Mahalo for your consideration and taking the time to hear this bill.

Jackie Keefe

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:55:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deven English	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill, take care of the LOCAL people.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:56:26 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Taylor Whitney I am a Native Hawaiian born and raised on the island of Oahu. I fully support this bill due to the fact that we as native Hawaiians are losing our home to foreigners. Speaking from experience I moved away from Hawaii about 4 years ago now as I became a single parent who unfortunately could not raise my daughter in Hawaii due to cost of living it hurts my heart that my little girl will be unable to grow up in her homeland and know what it is like to live in paradise. Hawaii is swiftly losing its beauty as we allow foreigners to take over our land and raise prices of living pushing our native Hawaiians out. Our beaches are not our beaches anymore, our land is not our land anymore! Take a drive out to the west side of Oahu and look at all those homeless living along our beaches I would say at least 75% of those people are native Hawaiians who lost their homes due to cost of living that speaks volumes. In fact take a drive around the island and just look at the amount of homeless we have now compared to 5 years ago. It's time we open our eyes and take our land back bring the beauty back to Hawaii so our next generations can grow up at home! It's time for a CHANGE and it starts now.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:56:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayne Kaawalaule	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Until the housing is truly affordable for native Hawaiians/local residents. I believe outsiders should not have the right to own land/property here in Hawaii.

mahalo,

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:57:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenna-Lee Yoneshige	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2617. As the older generations pass away and their homes go up for sale, Hawai'i is being bought out by those not from here. The whole culture within communities are changing. Values are shifting where people don't care or realize how their actions affect those all around them. Hawai'i is not just a playground to be trashed for entertainment. Hawai'i holds culture of taking care of each other, whether it being your neighbors or the land. Hawai'i's culture is becoming watered down with 'the spirit of aloha' becoming a marketing tactic where in reality it is fading away as people get 'priced out of paradise.' Growing up in Waiialua, now 31 years old, I've seen the shift in my own community. I feel the difference, whether it being from how people drive a little more reckless, seeing more trash in public spaces, or even just a friendly wave from a neighbor, all these small encounters add up to what creates environmental culture. If a bill has already passed in the continental US, despite it being accused unconstitutional, why can't it be passed here in Hawai'i?

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:57:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace bottella	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's time for us to do the right thing and not the thing that just puts money into people's pockets. Too many foreigners are coming here and pressing the market further out of reach of locals. If we pour into the people here imagine what kind of sustainable future we could have. It has been done in other states so I don't see what the problem is unless it's from money hungry government official. Get it together guys your in charge for a reason.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:57:25 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Grace	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The apology bill exists. The Kingdom of Hawai'i is under occupation from the United States of America. The STATE OF HAWAII is a lying entity. Ku'e forever!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:57:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Berlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii will not be Hawaii if we continue to allow everyone but Hawaiians to purchase homes here. The current situation only continues to worsen the economy and create problems. Leave these islands to the intended residents and stand up for the people and don't stand up for empty homes, corruption, and property investments!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:00:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naina Tai Hook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our Hawaiian people have been a minority in our own land for too long. It is BECAUSE of foreigners that we lost our culture, language and traditions for a time and we're still losing our land. We are still trying to undo the effects of foreigners in every aspect INCLUDING loss of land but it keeps getting taken from us. Hawai'i was a LAND and a PEOPLE before it was ever a business for money. Stop the foreigners from buying, using, exploiting our land because Hawai'i was never meant to be this way, there will soon be no hawaiians left on their own land and it'll be another loss of an entire culture and people. Please, we beg of you, please pass this bill.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:03:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tessa Tataipu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Tessa Tataipu. I was born and raised in Waimanalo on the island of Oahu and I currently reside in Kahuku. I come from 5 generation family who stand IN SUPPORT of SB2617.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:01:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allen Mahuka Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because there is so much land in our state, owned by foreign companies, that are mismanaged, or not in use. Land that can provide housing for our people, agriculture benefits, revenue for our state. Preventing foreign buyers will give our state stability by using the land, real estate to benefit the people that live here. To have the flexibility to use the properties that suit everyone's needs. Everyone in Hawaii. If other states are opposed to these foreign buyers, why are we allowing this. Its time for a change. Its time to start!!! Start using our resources better. Instead selling out. Mahalo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:01:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is long overdue, many Kanaka have moved off island due to Foreigners buying up our land! Enough is enough already!!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:02:18 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moloikaialiilani alau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support sb2617 to give native Hawaiian a chance to own our land before foreigners.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:03:17 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Kapeka Hoffmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Born and raised child of Hawaii and still hopeful to become a home owner in Hawaii, that we may live comfortably, i strongly support bill 2617 SB.

Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:04:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyrie Puaoi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Sen. Awa and those who have helped bring this bill to fruition, MAHALO.

I will keep it short and sweet. I am in strong favor and support of bill SB2617 - preventing foreigners from buying land in Hawaii. Our aina, culture, way of life, livelihoods, so much could be alleviated, healer, repaired OR hurt, broken, and destroyed by your folks decision on this. I already have little to no trust in our government and to see this not go through, would prove to me that I am right to have no faith and trust and it would break my heart. To those who may oppose this bill, if any, know that you are NOT for the people of Hawaii. Mahalo again to those who continue to stand and fight for us.

LATE LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:05:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harmony Kahaialii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was raised in Laie, attended Laie Elementary, a few years at Kahuku intermediate, graduated from Kamehameha Schools and BYU-Hawaii. I grew up wanting to move out of my small town, but as I got older and traveled around the world, I quickly learned that there is no other place that I'd rather be. Unfortunately as time passes, it is proving almost impossible to be able to afford living in the only place that I've called home for the last 40 years. My husband (who was raised in the neighboring town Kahuku) and I have 5 children together and want to simply raise our children in our homeland with Native Hawaiian values. My rent costs have risen to \$2800 a month for a 3 bedroom home in Laie...and I know that is actually a steal for the location of the home. This is unsustainable. With the costs of buying a home, utilities, property taxes and insurance, we (Kanaka Maoli) are faced with the impossible choice of leaving our beloved 'āina for more affordable means of living. This bill is moving our state in the right direction to help future generations to stay in our homeland instead of being forced out for non-locals to benefit from commercial and corporate financial gain. Please help my keiki to continue to learn, grow, and enjoy the life that I am so so grateful for. Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:05:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colin Kalama-Malani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai, I'm Sgt. Colin K. Malani, a Kanaka Maoli @ 65, in service with 42 years as a Deputy Sheriff Sergeant @ the Daniel K. Inouye, i'm a widowed father of three and grandfather of five. I'm a resident of Kapunahala in Kaneohe and I support my Senators in this measure to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian Hands! I have one son who had to move to Shelton, Washington because it was too expensive here in Hawaii and my five bedroom home couldnt accomodate any more growth and expansion. I'm nearing the end of my career and our home is our family's home we purchased in 1989 and I fear that the rising tax assessments due to rich foereigners & non residents buying up our real estate is going to displace many of our Kanaka and Kama'aina who are Ma'a to our land since foreign contact and before the Hawaiian Kingdom. Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands! Aloha and Mahalo Nui.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:06:41 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was born and raised on the North Shore of Oahu, a place I hold dear to my heart. With a deep commitment to my roots, I pursued higher education, trying to earn a PhD in Computer Science (Purdue), and am currently pursuing an MBA. My aim is to acquire the skills necessary to make a meaningful impact on my community. My only wish is to continue living in this community, raising my family here, and contributing to creating opportunities for the next generation. However, the soaring housing prices and the proliferation of short-term rentals have made it nearly impossible for locals like me to afford a home in our own neighborhood, distancing us from our families and our roots. This bill represents a critical step towards preserving our traditions while fostering innovation and opportunity within our community. I wholeheartedly support this bill and earnestly hope for its swift passage through the Senate.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:07:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robyn Peiler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Robyn Peiler and I gave birth to my beautiful daughter in 2023. I've always planned on raising my keiki here in Hawaii the same way I was born and raised. Now that I'm experiencing the hardships of inflation, I may not be able to buy a home for my family and are subjected to renting or living with other family members. Our keiki deserve the same opportunities that we had as children growing up and to not be priced out of our own homes. The prices of homes have increased drastically and without any drastic pay increases in our jobs to keep up with the demand. I fully support this bill not just because I believe Hawaiian lands should stay in Hawaiian hands, but because our keiki should experience the way of life that we've all grown to love. The foreigners that buy property here in Hawaii push out those that aren't able to keep up with the demand and are forced to move to the mainland to survive. With the influx of foreigners who are residing here in the islands, they may be a resident but the aloha spirit will not survive. Our people will not survive.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:08:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monique Hasegawa-Ilae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bill: 2617 SB RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

Monique Hasegawa-Ilae

MSW Student

Native Hawaiian Woman of Color

February 5, 2024

CPN/TCA

Hawaii

CR 224 & Videoconference

Honolulu, HI

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB2617 - Prohibiting Foreign Principals from Acquiring Real Property

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill SB2617, which aims to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property, with certain exceptions. This bill addresses critical concerns related to the

potential influence of foreign entities on our state's real estate market and safeguards the integrity of our communities.

The provisions outlined in SB2617 are both timely and necessary to protect the interests of our state and its residents. The proposed legislation defines a "foreign principal" and establishes clear guidelines for ownership and acquisition of real property. By requiring foreign principals to register ownership with the Attorney General and mandating buyers to provide affidavits attesting to their non-foreign principal status, SB2617 adds an additional layer of transparency and accountability to the real estate transactions within our state.

The authorization for the forfeiture of real property or an interest in real property acquired unlawfully further strengthens the deterrent against any potential abuse or violation of the proposed restrictions. Such measures are crucial for maintaining the sovereignty of our state and ensuring that our real estate market remains a fair and just arena for our citizens.

While I acknowledge that the bill declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025, I firmly believe that the long-term benefits of safeguarding our state's real estate market against potential external influences far outweigh any short-term financial constraints.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to carefully consider and support Senate Bill SB2617. By passing this legislation, we take a significant step towards protecting the interests of our state and its residents, promoting transparency, and maintaining the integrity of our real estate market.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will make the best decision for the well-being of our state and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Monique Hasegawa-Ilae

mhasegawailae@rysehawaii.org / 808-779-1617

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:09:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Simeona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a kama'aina and a Native Hawaiian I support SB2617 as a pathway to provide affordable homes for locals. Prohibiting foreigners from purchasing land in Hawaii is one step closer to keeping Native Hawaiians and locals in our homeland.

If this bill and other measures are NOT taken to provide affordable housing for the people we will continue to see thousands of locals move away each year. The rich will continue to buy up all the land and all of Hawai'i will become like Lāna'i, modern day slavery in the playground for the elite. Homelessness and crime rates will continue to spike and our already limited natural resources will become extinct, taking away the aloha and essence of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Kalehua Simeona

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:10:34 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaloulukea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is Kaloulukea & I'm writing this testimony because I would like to keep from outsiders from buying Hawaiian lands. I feel that this is not right as we as Hawaiian people need to have the lands for us. Everybody else is buying up the lands & building things we dont need more. Its sad because there is not enough for our people. I would like to have the lands for more housing & businesses for the Hawaiian people. I would like for the government officials to do more for us & should do more for us. Please stop this from going on. Thank you. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands!!!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:11:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keaunui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the "LONG OVERDUE" bill. I believe this will be for the betterment of those who love and care for Hawai'i. The Hawai'i that cares for us and gives us life as it is more than a vacation spot and a beautiful place to live.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:11:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:11:50 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arianna Souza-White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. This is 100% what is needed for the people of Hawaii!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:11:56 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ilima wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Advocating for a bill to regulate land ownership in Hawaii, I believe it is imperative to address the concerns surrounding the unrestricted acquisition of land by non-residents. I firmly support the notion that this bill should be enacted to curb the influx of foreign buyers who are driving up property prices, making it increasingly difficult for native residents, such as my family, to afford homes on the island.

The escalating prices, fueled by bidding wars initiated by foreign buyers, have severely limited the housing options available to locals. Despite being native and raised on the island of Hawaii, my family, like many others, has found it challenging to purchase a home due to the disproportionate influence of non-resident buyers on the market.

This surge in foreign investment has led to a significant rise in property values, creating a housing market that is increasingly unattainable for local residents. As a result, many locals are forced to seek housing options outside of city centers, only to find that even these areas are now subject to exorbitant pricing due to the impact of foreign buyers.

The consequences of unchecked foreign land ownership extend beyond the housing market, contributing to overpopulation and placing an unsustainable burden on the island's infrastructure. The resulting increase in traffic and strain on resources further exacerbates the challenges faced by those who have been born and raised in Hawaii.

Enacting this bill is essential to preserving the cultural and economic well-being of the local community. By regulating foreign land ownership, we can ensure that Hawaii remains accessible to its residents, safeguarding the island's resources and maintaining a sustainable quality of life for those who call it home.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:12:23 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Waylon Kaina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Hawaii has been home for me and for a lot of our Hawaiian people. Ever since the overthrow of the kingdom until now, Hawaiians have been displaced because of land seizure and the cost to even purchase a home here in Hawaii. The cost of living in Hawaii is way too expensive for an individual to purchase a home here in Hawaii. Most times people are working 2 jobs for rent alone. With foreign ownership of property, prices are jacked up and make it impossible for a person who's family had lived here for generations to live, which causes them to move out of Hawaii, because the cost of living. I hereby, support Bill SB2617 I hopes to detain foreign buyers to buy out Hawaii.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:13:28 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Pahia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is in good faith to the Hawaiian people. Many countries protect their lands from foreign investors and this is overdue in Hawaii. The chance for locals to own property must be prioritized over any outsiders financial goal to make money off our land.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:14:05 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonelle Kamai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am a Hawai'i resident on the island of Maui. Being born and raised on the islands for 41 years, I've seen many changes take place both bad and good. When it comes to real estate, the changes are unprecedented and if no change is made, I see a horrible future for our people when it comes to owning property in our own homeland as well as staying here and being able to afford a place here. I am in complete support of banning out-of-state real estate purchases as the first move to help Hawai'i residents have a shot at owning property here. We have to do something differently if we'd like to see changes before it's irreversible. I have 3 children and my oldest is currently building in our backyard as an extension to our home because he cannot afford the mortgage that comes with buying a home on the market. He is a journeyman drywall tapper that brings home great money and has no debt, it still home ownership is far fetched at the current interest rates and home prices. Something must be done and I believe prohibiting non-resident purchases in Hawai'i is a great start.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:15:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Yurong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Christian Yurong support Senate Bill 2617. I believe that majority of foreigners that own property here in Hawaii own for capital gain. Their wishes to have a vacation homes/rentals are one of many causes that continue to drive up the cost of housing here. Foreigners are all persons that are not registered to vote here. One must be a resident here to buy property here.

Much of the local community have family members that moved from here to other places like the continental U.S. because the cost of living here is so high. Better paying opportunities also exist ther that lure the local population there.

Foreigners invest ther money here to tear down nostalgic and historic sites here and build structures for their economic wealth. Their capitalistic views is turning Hawaii into the concrete jungle from where they come. If this keeps on going, Hawaii is not going to be Hawaii. It's already happening. Look at Waikiki. Look at Ko Olina. Look at Kihei and Wailea on Maui. All of this in the name of "development".

Look at all the illegal air bnbs, vrbo. Most of them are owned by foreigners that could owned by more local people.

Look at all the monster houses that are being built by Chinese. These houses put strain on the utilities infrastructure that were originally not designed for so it.

Foreign investors must be stopped from buying property and they must also be stopped from funding a resident to buy the property for them.

It's time to take care of our own residents and give us the best possibility to stay in this place that we call HOME.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:16:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelseamay Pupuhi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB 2617. Only residents of Hawai'i should be able to purchase real estate. The cost of living is outrageous. It is time for the people of Hawai'i to be able to live and buy homes in Hawai'i. We should not have to move out of the state just to be able to afford to live.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:16:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chance	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is Chance. I'm writing this testimony because I am oppose to having outsiders from buying up Hawaiian lands. I do not feel it is right or fair that they can do this. What about the Hawaiian people? There is alot that can be done to help our people out like housing & businesses. I would like our goverment officials to do more & needs to do more to help the Hawaiians. I mean it is our lands. Please stop this from happening. Thank you. KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS IN HAWAIIAN HANDS!!!

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:16:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Deguair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge this bill to be passed for Hawaiian's protection. I have 2 Hawaiian children that I hope can afford to by land in their future.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:16:25 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacquelyn Hashimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jacquelyn Hashimoto and I support this bill. I was born and raised here in the beautiful State of Hawaii. Hawaii has always been my home. I have 3 beautiful children who are of Native Hawaiian descent. We are a family of 5, and knowing the cost of living in Hawaii, have had such a difficult time purchasing a home of our own. With the current housing market making it greatly difficult to afford a home and our local wages not in line with the cost of living, foreigners/outside buyers are the ones able to purchase land and houses. Locals don't stand a chance against foreigners/outside buyers especially when they making an all cash purchase. Hawai'i residents should have the priority in Hawai'i's housing market. Local houses for kama'aina. Like Iam Tongi said, "Priced out of paradise." It's very sad that many locals are moving off the islands to buy a home because it's what is affordable. I dream of buying a home and keeping my family here in Hawai'i. Please make it possible for all us kama'aina to remain here on the islands.

Mahalo Nui,

Jacquelyn Hashimoto

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:17:30 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ka'ohu Catrett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

Paradise for Tourists, a Struggle for Natives: Native Hawaiian Homelessness in the Hawaiian Islands

Noah Jordan Magbual || HUMBIO 122

Introduction

Every year, millions of visitors travel to the Hawaiian islands unaware of the impact their vacations have on local communities. Enclaves of homeless camps that dot various popular spots among the islands have become more and more common. The tourism industry, alongside a multitude of other institutions and social factors, contribute to the egregiously high level of homelessness in the island chain. Currently, Hawaii is ranked second highest in the nation for rates of homelessness per 10,000 people¹. Native Hawaiians, the indigenous residents of the islands, are overrepresented in the homeless population. Of the 4,448 people facing homelessness on the island of Oahu, 51% identified as Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI) despite accounting for only 10% of the population^{2,3}.

Homelessness has proven to be a significant determinant of health. Homeless folks in general are at increased risk for contracting communicable disease, experiencing violence, malnutrition, and a range of behavioral and mental health issues including (but not limited to) depression, alcoholism, and other substance abuse disorders⁴. In fact, 24% of homeless on Oahu and 35% of neighbor island homeless were deemed chronically homeless (defined as experiencing homelessness for at least a year while simultaneously suffering from a disabling chronic mental or physical condition)².

Because of these adverse health outcomes, this brief will explore avenues to ameliorate Native Hawaiian homelessness. More specifically, this brief will describe how the colonization of Hawaii has contributed to homelessness of Native Hawaiians, and how tourism perpetuates patterns of indigenous homelessness within the

islands. The brief will then identify current initiatives that have been taken to tackle homelessness and the next steps to ensure housing for the indigenous community of the Hawaiian islands.

Background

Colonialism and Loss of Land

Hawaii's past of unwarranted Western contact and illegal annexation under U.S. imperialism has undeniably contributed to the current plight of homelessness. From the moment Captain James Cook stepped foot in the island nation, the Native Hawaiian people and culture were decimated. Infectious disease ravaged through Hawaii cutting the population by 90%⁵. This did not stop, as missionaries, U.S. businessmen, and more Western influences continued the practice of stripping Native Hawaiians of their land, culture, politics, and economy. In 1893, a U.S.-backed coup d'etat overthrew the Hawaiian monarchy, and the United States annexed Hawaii. After, foreign labor imports from China, Philippines, Japan, and Puerto Rico increased causing the continual decline and displacement of Native Hawaiians. In recognizing their wrongdoings, the U.S. instituted lackluster reparations through an apology resolution and the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921⁵. The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was an attempt to provide affordable housing and some land after the violent displacement and removal of Native Hawaiians⁵.

Tourism on Housing Affordability

Though the events of colonialism occurred over a century ago, the long-term impacts are still seen. After annexation, Native Hawaiians lost autonomy over their land and their agricultural way of life. Not long after, the island chain

turned to a new economic industry: tourism. Neocolonialism under the pretense of tourism continues to assert itself as a dominating force in the Hawaiian economy.

While the coasts are saturated with hotels and resorts, a much more hidden aspect of tourism that greatly exacerbates the housing affordability crisis is the vacation rental unit (VRU) industry. VRUs are rental properties used for transient parties visiting for less than 30 days. The issue with VRUs is that many of these are owned by non resident buyers -- on Maui alone, 52% of homes are sold to nonresidents, and 60% of condos and apartments have gone to investors and second homeowners⁶. Foreign-owned VRUs pose two primary concerns. First, they limit the supply of available housing to locals and Native Hawaiians. Currently, 64,700-66,000 homes are needed at an affordable price to accommodate the growing demand for homes while many VRUs remain unoccupied for a majority of the year⁷. Secondly, cities like San Francisco who also struggle with VRU market issues have found that VRUs result in the withdrawal of housing from the residential market, resulting in higher housing costs⁸.

In fact, lack of affordable housing is one of the primary drivers for Native Hawaiian homelessness. Hawaii's Point in Time report surveyed those who were homeless and found that 17% were unable to pay rent, 15% lost their job, and 12% suffered from some form of money loss⁹. Fiscal losses are incredibly important in determining home affordability. Moreover, the cost of housing in Hawaii is at a whopping 149% above the national average, with a cost of living index that is 65.7% higher than the rest of the nation¹⁰. Studies have shown that an average of 40% of Native Hawaiian households are cost-burdened by housing prices, meaning that more than 30% of their income goes toward housing¹¹. Egregious housing prices coupled

with the fact that a higher proportion of Native Hawaiians are living at the poverty level compared to their white counterparts (15.4% vs 9.6%) makes it unsurprising that the once indigenous population of the Hawaiian archipelago are now outcasts in their own home¹².

Aside from the vicious housing market that results from foreign-owned VRUs, Hawaii's tourism industry has also led to the conception of many laws that criminalize homeless folks for occupying spaces that may deter visitors away. For instance, Ambrose, et. al, wrote that Honolulu city ranks 8th in the nation for its unfriendly homeless policies¹⁰. These policies include the removal from sidewalks, illegalization of sleeping at most parks and beaches, the retrofitting of bus stops, and "cleanups" that displace homeless folks to the outskirts of the city, away from high-density tourist areas^{10,11}. While the intention of this is to move homeless folks off the streets and into shelters, reports have shown that these cleanups do not increase homeless shelter occupancy¹³.

Homelessness Impacts

As mentioned, homelessness has shown to adversely impact one's health. In homeless Native Hawaiians specifically, they suffer rates of asthma and hypertension at 7.3% and 2.4% (respectively) higher than non-native homeless members¹⁰. More generally, homeless folks have a higher prevalence of infections, COPD, and mental health disorders¹⁴. Compounded by multiple risks and lack of access to care, homeless people also suffer from mortality rates 2-31 times higher than housed people¹⁴. These health impacts often lead to increased hospitalizations for preventable ailments. From 2013 to 2016, the Queens Hospital on the island of Oahu rose from 6,958 to 11,000¹³. Overall, the homelessness among Native Hawaiians is an unfortunate byproduct of Western colonialism

and the tourism industry and has life threatening health impacts.

Current Efforts

One of the largest (and only) efforts to address Native Hawaiian homelessness specifically is the Hawaiian Homes initiative. Initiated in 1921, the act set aside over 200,000 acres of land to build affordable houses at an annual rent of \$1¹⁵. However, this policy does come with limitations. To qualify, one must prove a blood quantum of 50% Native Hawaiian ancestry. Through the import of foreign labor and the dwindling of “pure” Native Hawaiians from colonial times, the number of mixed race Native Hawaiians have increased substantially. Currently, Mokuau et al, reported 70% of Native Hawaiians report being multiracial with one or more races⁵. As if the barrier to entry was not enough, the quality of these houses are typically sub par. Prior to 20 years ago, a permit was not required for construction. Many residents reported increased repair costs stemming from the lack of eaves on their homes (an issue that leads to rotting exteriors from rain and weather)¹⁵.

On the more community level, there are several organizations that work to reduce homelessness in the islands. The *Housing First* project works to find permanent housing for chronically homeless people and equips them with life-skills to ensure they stay housed¹³. Additionally, the *Hawaii Pathways Project (HPP)* used an evidence-based experimental strategy to help homeless people who specifically struggle with substance abuse. From their three-year pilot, HPP estimated that they’ve been able to assist clients in reducing health care costs by almost half and produce an average net savings of \$2,370 per month per client¹⁶. These grassroots organizations and evidence-based supports may be key in addressing chronic homelessness in Hawaii. However, their efforts must be met with

political and legislative support to ensure Native Hawaiians are housed.

Policy Recommendations

The first and perhaps most important policy recommendation would be to increase the supply of housing. Implementing stricter sanctions on VRU violations to decrease the number of illegally occupied VRUs may be one potential route. Throughout the state, many VRUs rent out whole homes illegally rather than the legal rent-a-room/rent-a-unit⁶. Cracking down on these either through fines or requiring more transparency of who owns these homes and who they are renting to may free up more homes within the real estate market⁶. As we’ve seen, housing affordability (and subsequently, housing availability) are directly impacted by the VRU and tourism industry.

Moreover, reforming the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act may prove effective in providing housing for Native Hawaiians specifically. For instance, reducing the blood quantum as the proportion of mixed-race Native Hawaiians grows is one avenue to lowering the barrier to entry for housing. Additionally, engaging and assisting pre-existing grassroots organizations that are hard at work to address homelessness in Hawaii may prove vital in housing Native Hawaiian communities as well. However, engaging directly with Native Hawaiian communities, acknowledging the historical trauma of colonization, and prioritizing their needs will be essential to mitigate homelessness in Hawaii.

Additional Resources

- Hawaiian Homes: Information, Application Requirements, and more: <http://dhhl.hawaii.gov/>
- Key legislation related to homelessness: <http://www.hawaiilodging.org/homelessness.html>

- The socio-cultural impact of tourism on local communities:
<https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/visitor/sustainable-tourism-project/drafts/General-Pop-Socio-Cultural-Report.pdf>
- Housing First Project information:
<https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/housing/>

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:19:09 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Aguirre	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:19:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Jimenez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native hawaiian and local born resident, I fully support this bill. Foreigners increase the prices of homes year after year. My children will not be able to purchase property in their home land when they become of age.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:20:22 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
alfredo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Alfredo Villas-Boas

I am in favor of this bill land purchasing for locals only it is a must for secure future generations residence the right to live in our island.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:20:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Ashworth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please don't allow outside investors to purchase land in Hawaii. I'm born and raised in Hawaii and need affordable housing to OWN. It is impossible to buy due to outside investors. Should be limited to Hawaii residents only.
mahalo,

Tanya Ashworth

Lanai City, HI

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:20:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jet Travis Inouye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As someone who was born and raised in Hawaii, I have seen many people struggle due to being in poverty and having to deal with increased property tax because of people who have bought land and created vacation homes. These vacation homes not only raise the property tax of those around them but also impact locals more as so many don't have enough money to deal with everyday things. If the legislature passes this bill, it will prevent locals from being affected by the increased property tax that comes with vacation homes and expensive houses.

Thank you,

Jet Travis Inouye

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:20:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleikaumaka Camara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kaleikaumaka Camara and I support SB2617. As someone that was born and raised in Kahalu'u, Hawaii, seeing the major change in my neighborhood is always something that worried me. So many houses around me have been bought by outsiders, knocked down and replaced with either 1 giant home or multiple homes on 1 plot that are being rented out to multiple people at a time. When I was a kid, my neighborhood was never crowded but now, it's overflowing with people who I no longer recognize. These people are mainly not from Hawaii and looking to build houses to rent them out to more non-Hawaiians. This overwhelming amount of new houses and new people causes traffic, raises property tax which has been pushing many family members and friends around me out of their homes, and overall is destroying Hawaii and harming the Natives. I support SB2617 because I believe that my home and my fellow Hawaiians do not deserve to be exploited for other people's personal gain and that we deserve better than what we are currently getting.

Mahalo

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:21:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cameren Banis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Cameren Banis and I am a 20 year old born and raised from Wahiawa, Oahu. I am submitting my testimony for this billin support of the idea that it will bring enough change to the current state of the housing market and that I may be able to one day own a home. At the rate of which the housing market is going I cannot foresee myself being able to purchase and own a house. I'm planning to have a good career and even that won't be enough for me to buy a home as most homes nowadays require two people with stable income over 100k. Foreign interest is driving local demand into the ground and it's not any better for the up and coming generations. When the current generation is already struggling to get into that high demand pocket only to lose because they don't have pockets as deep as foreign buyers then that leaves a current resident of Hawai'i with no home or forces them to leave. It pains me to watch many of the Local Native Hawaiians being driven out because they could not afford to live here anymore post covid. Therefore, given my concerns for the state of affairs, restricting or banning foreign buyers , even if it isn't the root of the problem, will be the first bill passed since Covid that would help our state take a step in the direction of rehabilitation for the local families who have know these islands for all their life.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:21:48 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaiian Land , meaning every foot of land on the Hawaiian Islands belongs to Kanaka. Kanaka shouldn't have to fight for land that is rightfully ours. Being bought out by foreign Bussinesses and foreigners isn't helping anyone living on The Hawaiian Islands.
No More outside buyers No More corruption!

Let's put a Stop to those who just take and abuse our Land.

I, Justyce Torres , Support SB2617 .

Mahalo and God Bless

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:22:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! O wau kou inoa Sonny "Mana" Kekahuna Ke'ia....myself and my family is in support of this bill 100%, our kanaka have suffered for generations, in reality, no kanaka can afford our own stolen lands, a home of our own, or even a vehicle for that matter. With this bill I know it will open so many doors to opportunities for our people to stay here at home in Hawai'i....it will take some time as yes money talks, but it will be a start! The only way to keep our native people here where they supposed to be is to give us a chance to grow.

Mahalo & thank you

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:23:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lawrence hose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is a good start. Supporting & passing this bill is the clearest current thing you do to support your friends, your ohana, your & our communities. Mahalo nui.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:23:42 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ku'ulei	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STOP FOREIGNERS FROM BUYING LAND IN HAWAII.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:23:54 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiaurrei Sivia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian, I feel as if I have no chance of buying a home here in Hawaii. I see all these outsiders buying home next door to the place I grew up and more of our people the islands every year. Stop selling us out!! Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands!!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:23:54 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainoa Kuoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I support Brenton Awa.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:23:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominique Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is Dominique Lee. I'm originally from Kahalu'u, but I currently live in Kailua and have worked in Waianae in the emergency department for the past year. The juxtaposition between walking Kailua/Lanikai Beaches and seeing countless vacant vacation rentals along our shorelines and then traveling one hour away to work where the consequences of widespread homelessness are absolutely devastating to the native Hawaiian community is abhorrent. Please consider protecting the native Hawaiian community as well as the local population at large by preventing foreigners from purchasing local real estate. If things continue as they currently are, it will be permanently devastating to the local community in Hawaii, but also have a permanent shift in the culture on-island.

Mahalo,

Dominique Lee

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:24:34 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617, which seeks to regulate foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a concerned resident, I believe this legislation is crucial for safeguarding our local real estate market and ensuring that our communities remain accessible to residents and responsible investors alike.

Foreign investment in real estate can have significant implications for housing affordability, market stability, and local economic development. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimus indirect interests, SB2617 takes proactive steps to prevent speculative activities that may drive up prices and limit housing options for local residents.

Furthermore, the requirement for foreign principals to register their ownership with the Attorney General and the imposition of penalties for unlawful ownership underscore the importance of transparency and accountability in real estate transactions. These measures will not only deter illicit practices but also provide valuable data for policymakers to assess the impact of foreign investment on our communities.

I commend the sponsors of SB2617 for their efforts to address a pressing issue facing our state. I urge the committee to support SB2617 and advance it for further consideration. By enacting sensible regulations on foreign ownership of real property, we can promote sustainable growth, protect our communities, and ensure a bright future for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mahalo,

Grace Young

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:24:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keanuenue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB 2617. That only residents of Hawai'i and no foreigners should be able to purchase real property. The cost of living is so high that it is forcing many residents and Kanaka to leave the state.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:26:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad Thurman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support 2617 SB RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:26:56 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tory jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a 27 year old local that has grown up on Hawaii island all my life, it is sad to see family members being driven out because we can no longer afford to live on our homeland.

Iam Tongi said it best, we're all being priced out of paradise because foreigners are giving us no choice by buying everything they possibly can to oversell these properties at prices we cannot afford.

keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands ❤️

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:28:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Karnis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To those it concerns,

It is necessary for bill SB2617 to be enacted now. We must preserve the sacred land of Hawaii. Those who purchase land on Hawaii must have a real relationship with the aina. Buyers only interested in making profit off of Hawaii will not preserve the culture and aina of Hawaii. Aloha is the guiding law of Hawaii. Bill SB2617 will support the preservation of the aina.

Mahalo,

Emily Karnis

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:28:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaylynn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No one cares about tampons in the men's bathroom. JUST PASS THE BILL SO OUR PEOPLE CAN BUY LAND AND NOT WORRY ABOUT BEING OUTBID EVERY TIME WE TRY!!!!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:29:03 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:0

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelissa Kaanehe Devencenzi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by keeping Hawaiian lands in local ownership.

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Kelissa Kaanehe Devencenzi

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:29:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leesean silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen and resident Of Hawai'i I support this bill. I support this bill because I think it's important for our Hawaiian people to be put FIRST. To be put first before money, before status, before all Who are not residents of this of beautiful place We call home. I feel this bill is important And I support this bill because it will give our people a chance to become home owners. If outsiders keep buying up our lands and our homes, and capitalizing off our lands for their own financial gain it will never give us an opportunity. Majority of our homes are being purchased by outsiders to be rented out to us or to used as vacation homes that is not for us. They are capitalizing off of our lands. And it's is not right! Rent is so high that we will never be able to afford to purchase our own homes in our home state where we have grew up. That's so sad! That means our children will never have these opportunities as well. I feel that we need to start pushing for these changes NOW to benefit our Children's future. If not now, when? The time is now. We will continue to fight and we will continue to do what's right for our future generations to come. Thank you so much Brenton Awa For continuing to fight for our rights and for the people of Hawai'i!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:29:46 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Angela Adams and I have had the lucky privilege of growing up in Kailua. I have also had the unfortunate privilege of seeing my home town turn into a tourist destination with too many vacation rentals. My parents were approached many times when I was a child to sell their house to Japanese foreigners. Unfortunately due to hard economic times they did end up selling their house in Kailua. It is sad when I can testify that not a single one of my friends own a house in Hawaii (unless inherited) although they work hard and were all born and raised in Hawaii. Due to the lack of housing this would be an excellent bill to pass to make a small start in the right direction. Many countries do not allow foreigners to buy properties in countries that they do not live in. This is a must needed bill to start to give Hawaii back to the people that are US Citizens and contribute to the everyday economy by working and living in Hawaii. In the construction industry I see first hand that the luxurious condos that are going up in the Honolulu area are not bought by local people but instead sold to foreigners. I am submitting my testimony that I am in support of this bill and it must be passed.

Mahalo

Angela Adams

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:29:52 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Luke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: SB2617 ; Hearing Tuesday February 6, 2024

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to testify for SB2617.

I am in support of this bill.

Being born and raised in the islands is special.

The opportunity to raise a family in the islands is special.

Please pass this bill so we will have a chance to raise a family and have the children experience what it is like to grow up here and preserve the land and culture.

Thank you,

Kai Luke

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:30:30 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pakela Almeida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to stop prioritizing the sale of homes to foreign entities and start prioritizing affordable homes to the native/local people. If only we stopped sales to foreigners there wouldn't be the need to keep building so many homes and apartment buildings which will only keep building the terrible traffic we have on the road. We are only a small island there's only so much space we can build on. Instead of homes we should have more agricultural land to help lower the need to ship food here but anyway back to the topic at hand. Foreigners keep buying homes in which they don't live in. They turn it into Air BnBs or charge an overpriced rent to tenants. We need to stop the money grabbing sales and start at least helping native Hawaiians to be able to keep living here instead of resorting to moving to the states.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:30:42 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isla Bentley-Micallef	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB2617. Hawaiians and all other native people deserve to have a home on their own land. It's time to put the people over profits! Please consider passing this bill so our hard-working local families can afford to stay in the place they've called home for GENERATIONS rather than selling out to foreigners. This is WAY overdue! Please have a heart and do the right thing. Let Hawaii be the catalyst for change in this capitalistic society.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:31:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaydee Park	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617, The "Long Overdue" Bill. I believe it is about time that foreign ownership of land be prohibited, opening opportunity for Hawai'i natives and locals to become land owners in their own communities.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:31:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shantel Oneil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Shantel Loriann Leilani O'Neil (Macalino) and I have lived in Hawai'i my whole life. Five years ago, I had to say goodbye to my mother, grandmother, aunts, cousins, and uncles as they were forced to leave the islands due to the rising cost of living. This had severe, detrimental effects on my mental health, as I was pregnant and knew I wouldn't have the support of my 'Ohana by my side. Everyday, I have more friends and family leaving the island due to housing shortages, the housing crisis, and the high cost of living. Hawai'i is our home. I'm taking a stand today in favor of passing this bill to keep the housing available for only the residents of Hawai'i. Please pass this bill for the locals, and especially for the kanaka maoli, to whom this land belongs.

Mahalo,

Shantel O'Neil

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:31:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daylan-Blake Kalai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Daylan Blake Makoa Kalai, hereby support the passing of this "Long Overdue" Bill. I am in support of Native Hawaiians having first choice at land possession. I am in support of removing that privilege from all foreigners. How this is only becoming a reality now, in 2024, is absurd to me. Kāko'o!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:31:46 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha. I , Josh Medeiros Support SB2617. As a Local Resident , it's time changes be made to our State. Enough is enough. Ever since the Pandemic a lot of local businesses and families have been forced to relocate to the States because of the Ridiculous inflation here in Hawaii or just shutting their businesses down completely. With that being said, vacant properties gives foreigners the green light to come in and buy everything. This is unfair for us Locals. Locals should have first dibs on land and properties. Locals shouldn't have to relocate to another state because it's cheaper their and economically better. Let's change the economic system here once and for all. Let's make Hawaii affordable again. Let's bring back Paradise again. Keep Hawaii Residents in Hawaii Land. Locals need a chance to start a business and to buy a home. I my self is a chef and would love to start my own businesses , but it is just to expensive to do so. We get paid so little as well. I really pray that this bill is passed because there are to many foreigners buying Local businesses out and replacing with an unnecessary structure that doesn't benefit any Hawaii Resident. This bill will allow us to develop Hawaii Sustainability once again. God Bless you all.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:31:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlemagne Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB2617. As a lifetime resident of Oahu, Hawaii I have witnessed the skyrocketing costs of not only housing but more importantly the overall cost of living. I have a college degree. I have acquired the education needed to secure a high paying job. My husband has done the same, yet we both continue to struggle making ends meet for our small family. Though we were lucky enough to have been able to purchase a home of our own, we experienced first hand, how discriminatory the home buying process can be. We were battling against military families and lost the bidding wars on several homes prior to finding our current home. Working class families cannot compete against mainland buyers or military home buyers- many of which already own multiple homes and have the ability to front the cash that we, Hawaii residents simply do not have to be able to out bid others just to secure a home in our state, in the place that we grew up in. How do we expect our children to be able to purchase homes of their own in the current state of our economy, and with the housing crisis that we are currently in.

Most of us are just seeking homes that we can raise our families in and grow old in, with no intentions of making more and more money off of real estate purchases. We just want to keep our families close as we love our normal lives. Please consider the future of our children by passing this bill. Let our keiki have a chance of staying here, working here and raising their families here. We need to do better for them.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:32:51 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Gonzales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill as a Kanaka, Born and raise here in the islands. A hardworker and contributor to society, trying to purchase property for my self and my ohana find it very hard to do so living in today's economy. We need your help to keep our lands for the people who chooses to reside and make these lands HOME while taking care and contributing to their communities. Please hear the people out. 🙏

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:33:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Enough is enough....

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:33:17 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because there should be more housing opportunities for the people of Hawaii. Why should we have to move away. And let people that don't live here come over and take from us. It's sad that our children won't even have the option to buy here because everything is being bought up from foreigners.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:33:23 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marc	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want the children of Hawaii to be able to purchase their own homes when it comes time. We don't want our children to move away just so they can find nice affordable homes. They belong here in the islands so they they can contribute to Hawaii and thrive where they were raised. Hawaii's born and raised first and not someone marrying into a locals family just to purchase land either. That marriage may end in divorce and the foreigner may acquire Hawaiian property that way as well. Local first, locals only. Aloha!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:33:31 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirstin Latu-Vaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider this Bill SB2617 to pass so we do not lose Hawaii. I am a current resident of 18 years along with my husband and 3 children. My husband and children are Pacific Islanders and contribute/serve our local community of Hauula. The house next to me is an illegal vacation rental that sits empty for most of the year. The house to the right of me sold for an unattainable amount to out-of-state residents. And my own home will be on the market this year as we are current renters. We will have nowhere to go. The unique health needs of my children prevent us from moving to any other Pacific island, yet we farm, fish, and work 2-3 jobs each just to survive and raise our children with the cultural values and responsibility that they can only receive here in Hawaii. We are on the verge of being homeless ourselves if properties are sold to out-of-state/foreign buyers. We need to be selling locally. Or there will be no Islanders left.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:33:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loren Watanuki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi!

I am in support of not letting foreigners purchase properties in Hawaii. I was born and raised here. I work hard and make a pretty good income, but still can't afford to purchase a home. I would like to be able to one day as I am getting older already. I would also like to see my children be able to purchase their own properties as well.

Thank you,

Loren W

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:35:26 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekai iokia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

We the people of Hawaii are suffering from the housing market, and are forced to move out to live comfortably, not trying to stress what's for dinner the next day.

We the people of Hawaii have to fight the cost of living and then compete with today's housing market.

Why is the market high? Because of simple businesses, low supplies, and high demand.

Low supplies very limited on housing

High demand comes from the people of Hawaii, people from the mainland, and people from other countries (*foreigners*) trying to compete. That only gives you a 33.333% chance of staying home.

So if we minus 1 out of 3 groups now it gives us a 50% chance. Means fewer people to compete against.

Last but not least **The United States Constitution** was written for the people of America not foreigners so don't use this **unconstitutional victim BS**.

Mahalo for your time

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:35:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 P

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zane Verdier-Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Zane Verdier-Ching support Bill SB2617. For too long locals, native hawaiians, people that have been here hundreds of generations are being priced out of their only home. In many other states these measures are already implemented, so why should it not be allowed in hawai'i where there is only so much land being a island chain rather compared to a whole continent. So with a place so small, and so much history; the people who make that history and makes this place what it is. Is being forced out of their home and everything they know... So foreigners who have made money elsewhere and some never even been here or care about it here are allowed to buy up all the land. The islands are already majorly military bases and houses, while small shops are being torn down for high rises and apartments. Soon this whole island is going to be a bunch of foreigners with money making money off the backs of native hawaiians and many others that have been here for several generations. These locals can only make so much at home and it doesn't make it any easier with foreigners buying everything for simply profit and pricing the locals and native people out. We need control on property buying because it is getting out of hand at this point. There is simply not enough properties and the local economy doesn't make it feasible more often than not with the way property values are raising.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:35:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamaile Chand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a native Hawaiian deeply rooted in the culture and traditions of our beautiful islands, I write to express my wholehearted support for bill SB2617. This bill, aimed at prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring significant real property interests in Hawai'i, represents a crucial step towards safeguarding the integrity of our land and protecting the rights of our people.

For far too long, Hawai'i has been subject to exploitation by foreign investors and out-of-state residents who view our islands as mere commodities to be bought for their vacation pleasures. The unchecked influx of money from these individuals has led to the rampant inflation of real estate prices for years, pushing any dream of homeownership further out of reach for countless native Hawaiians and local residences.

As a result, many native Hawaiians are forced to leave our own homeland, driven away by the exorbitant costs of living and the inability to compete with wealthy outsiders in the housing market. Our communities are being displaced, our cultural heritage continually eroded, and our way of life continually threatened by the unchecked greed of those who see Hawai'i as nothing more than a lucrative investment opportunity.

This bill is a vital tool in our fight against this insidious form of colonization. By restricting the ability of foreign principals to acquire significant interests in Hawaiian real estate, is a start where we can begin to reclaim control over our land and ensure that it remains accessible to those who call Hawai'i home.

Moreover, the requirement for foreign principals who already own property to register with the Attorney General is a necessary measure to bring transparency to land ownership in Hawai'i. It is essential that we know who holds the deeds to our land and that they are held accountable for their stewardship of it.

I urge you to pass SB2617 without delay, sending a clear message that Hawai'i is not for sale to the highest bidder. Let us take a stand against the exploitation and theft of our land, reclaiming our sovereignty and securing a future where native Hawaiians can thrive in the place we have called home for generations.

Mahalo nui loa for your attention to this critical issue.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kamaile Chand

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:36:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I 100% support this bill. We need to keep Hawaiian lands in HAWAIIAN HANDS! Foreigners have bought up enough of our land, it's time for hawaiians to benefit off our own land! We have a connection to our Aina, this is not a place to buy property to make these foreigners more money!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:37:31 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Temoana Sonoda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Temoana Sonoda

Halau Ku Mana

2101 Makiki height Dr.

Honolulu, HI

temoanasonoda2@gmail.com

(808)425-7916

1/6/24

Senate Committee

87-120 Maipalaoa rd

Wai'anae, 96792, HI

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Temoana Sonoda, and I am a senior student at Halau Ku Mana. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimis indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Senate Committee to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Temoana Sonoda

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:38:20 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ka'uikikaikaimalie Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ka'uikikaikaimālie Kalama

Hālau Kū Māna Public Charter School

2101 Makiki Heights Dr #2520

Honolulu, HI 96822

kauiki.kalama@halaukumana.org

[\(808\) 945-1600](tel:8089451600)

02/06/2024

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Ka'uikikaikaimālie, and I am a 11th grade student at Hālau Kū Māna PCS. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has

contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimis indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge chairs Lee and Keohokalole as well as the members of the committee to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Ka‘uikikaikaimālie Kalama

LATE LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:39:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joshua lehano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kapana Lehano

Halaukumana

401 N Vineyard Blvd

Honolulu,, 96817

joshua.lehano@halaukumana.org

8084505617

Feb 6, 2024

Chairs Lee and Keohokalole

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. Implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Kapana, and I am a 12th-grade student at HalauKuMana. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern about foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimus indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that residents have access to affordable and suitable housing, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Chairs Lee and Keohokalole to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help

alleviate the burden of housing costs on residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kapana Lehano

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:40:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ihilani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ihilani Coen

Halau Ku Mana

2101 Makiki Heights Drive

megan.coen@halaukumana.org

(808)852-1658

02/05/24

Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees

2101 Makiki Heights drive

HON, HI, 96822

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Ihilani Coen, and I am a 11th grade student at Halau Ku Mana PCS. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimus indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Ihilani Coen

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:40:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zhivana Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because here in Hawai'i the cost of living is so high and when foreigners come in with the cash and able to pay we lose out on the property and land because we can't afford it. It should only be available for purchase to Hawai'i residents or those of Hawaiian ancestry.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:40:18 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyrus Ortogero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Cyrus Ortogero

Hālau Kū Māna

2101 Makiki height Dr.

Honolulu, HI 96822

Cyrus.Ortogero@halaukumana.org

(808) 945-1600

02/06/2024

Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Cyrus Ortogero, and I am a 10th grader student at Hālau Kū Māna. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimus indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Chairs Lee and Keohokalole to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Cyrus Ortogero

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:40:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaika Kanahale-Nations	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ikaika Kanahale-Nations

Hālau Kū Māna

2101 Makiki height Dr.

Honolulu, HI 96822

ikaikakn@halaukumana.org

(808)954-1600

2/6/2024

[Senate committee]

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Ikaika, and I am a grade 11 student at Hālau Kū Māna. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimis indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Ikaika Kanahale-Nations

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:40:35 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cameron Mattson	Testifying for Halau Ku Mana	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Cameron Stevens Ke'ōlinonokahikina Mattson

Hālau Kū Māna

2101 Makiki

cameron.mattson@halaukumana.org

(808) 772-3285

Feburary 6th, 2024

Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees

Dear Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Cameron Mattson, and I am a sophomore student at Hālaua Kū Māna. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply

concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimus indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Cameron Mattson

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:40:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikualono jackson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ikualono Jackson

Hālau Kū māna

2101 Makiki height Dr.

Honolulu Hi, 96822

ikualono.jackson@halaukumana.org

(808) 945-1600

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Ikualono, and I am a [grade level] student at Hālau kū Māna. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of

affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimis indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Ikualono Jackson

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:40:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pililani Kyota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pililani Kyota

Hālau Kū Māna

2101 Makiki height Dr

(808) 945-1600

Feburary 6, 2023

Senate Committee

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Pililani Kyota, and I am a 10th grader at Hālau Kū Māna. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimus indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Pililani Kyota

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:40:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kauluwehi Kaiawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I kauluwehi Kaiawe- Cabrera is in support of passing bill SB2617. Born and raised in the Big Island of Hawai'i. We are left with difficulties of purchasing a home due to foreigners over bidding or being able to pay cash for a home purchase. I have lived my entire life here on moku-puni O Hawai'i, the rising costs of markets has now left me with realistic goals of not being able to purchase a home in the very place i have only lived. I've had to accept defeat that the purchase amounts are out of reach for a mother of 3 children.

The people born and raised on this island deserve a chance to be able to purchase home in their town they have grown up in. Not only in the undeveloped land of ocean view or ETC Having to travel hours just to get to work or school. This long over due bill, creates true hope for the people of Hawai'i, who truly live in Hawaiian ways. Who malama this 'āina & the people in our community. Our homes are not meant to only be rentals for foreigners to make money from. The people of this 'āina need places to live to, and not have to rent for the rest of our lives or result in moving to afford housing purchases.

Time & time again, we see friends and 'Ohana move out of state to get a chance to even own a home. This should stop immediately.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:40:48 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kaiulani Iaea

Halau Ku Mana

2101 Makiki height Dr.

Honolulu, HI 96822

kailee-ann.iaea@halaukumana.org

(808)650-0815

Feb 6 2024

Senate Committee

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Kaiulani Iaea, and I am an eleventh grade student at Halau Ku Mana. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimus indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of Chair Lee and Keohokalole to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kaiulani Iaea

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:41:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ka'imipono Inofinada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Tristan Kamuela Ka'imipono Inofinada

Ka'imipono Inofinada

tristan.inofinada@halaukumana.org

1(808) 425 6134

2/6/2024

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawai'i, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Ka'imipono Inofinada, and I am a 11th grade student at Hālau Kū Māna. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawai'i. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawai'i.

The rising cost of housing in Hawai‘i has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimis indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Chairs Lee and Keohokalole to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawai‘i. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Ka‘imipono Inofinada

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:41:35 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miyah	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Because foreigners are buying houses on the land, the prices began to rise and my family can't afford to buy a new house. We were born and raised here but we can get ahold of a house

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:41:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Aleka-Grace Ferreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha-

as a native Hawaiian woman that has realistically no chance of ever owning land in my home, I HIGHLY oppose allowing foreign entities to purchase land that native Hawaiians don't even have access to. The rising cost of living, the rising costs of land and building expenses are heartbreaking as is. The fact that someone with no ties, respect, understanding or care for our home can buy out an entire families generational home is ridiculous.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:42:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodice Popovich Pung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm Kalamaku, a native to these islands and I support this bill. Homes and lands are bought way too often and the people who live here and have an actual connection to Hawai'i, don't even get a chance to own any of it. With this bill there will be some comfort that those who don't have citizenship here won't be able to buy more spaces and gives a chance for those who actually live here. Please forward this bill.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:42:20 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elilai Louch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Elilai Louch, and I am a 10th-grade student at Hālau Kū Māna. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern about foreign ownership of real property in Hawai'i. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawai'i.

The rising cost of housing in Hawai'i has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimis indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and the Members of the Committees to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawai'i. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Elilai Louch

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:42:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brianna Kaui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a long overdue bill. Locals are consistently priced out of Hawai'i and it is becoming a sad, but constant reality that foreigners are taking over our beautiful home.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:42:54 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kia'i Keone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The people of Hawai'i have gone through a genocide for centuries now. The people who remain are one of few who can luckily still call this place home. However, we're at a turning point now where things will change for the worse, if we don't do anything about it.

We all know about the housing crisis and Hawaiian families moving to the mainland to survive. We know the problem. Here is the solution that the people of Hawai'i has been praying for. Is it going to solve everything? No. But it's the right step that we need to take now. Even if you're not Hawaiian, I urge you to put yourself in our shoes. We've gone through so much. All we're asking is for a small break, so we can raise our children in the same place we were raised.

Mahalo.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:42:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuʻulei Naʻauao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kuʻulei Naʻauao

Halau Kū Māna

2101 Makiki

kuulei.naauao@halaukumana

8088240815

2/6/2024

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Kuʻulei Naʻauao, and I am a 10th grade student at Halau Ku Māna. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimis indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Ku'uilei Na'auao

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:43:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hokukuanalia Puakeamaikalani Sunia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hokukuanalia Puakeamaikalani Sunia

Halau Ku Mana

2101 Makiki height Dr.

Honolulu, HI 96822

hokukuanalia.sunia@halaukumana.org

1(808) 945-1600

February 06, 2024

Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Hokukuanalia Puakeamaikalani Sunia, and I am a 10th grader at Halau Ku Mana. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of

affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimis indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Hokukuanalia Sunia

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:43:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kualono Kaupu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of SB2617. With the housing crisis in Hawaii and cost of living, the passing of this bill may increase chances of locals and more importantly direct descendants of Hawaii pae aina to stay if foreign investors were out of the picture. By making homes and land more available/affordable for Hawaiians and the people who are raise in the essence of Hawaiian can and will only benefit Hawaii as a whole.

" Know Hawaiians Know Hawaii, No Hawaiians No Hawaii "

LATE
LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:43:01 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaley Yoshizu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Shaley Yoshizu and am a resident of O’ahu, Hawaii. I am currently attending my second year of undergrad in the mainland. I hereby would like to advocate for solutions in resolving the existential housing crisis in Hawai’i to push for more affordable housing. As a Native Hawaiian myself, being born and raised on the North Shore in an old sugar plantation neighborhood, I’ve seen various neighbors move out of their beloved homes for cheaper housing and jobs in the continental U.S.

Although I am a young adult in college now, one of my strongest desires is to move back home to O’ahu where I hope to pursue my medical career as a specialized doctor to give back to my community. Many families like my own, come from low-income backgrounds where it has become difficult to financially support our own households with more than three people. With the approval of this legislative bill, this will ease the financial burdens of local residents, with priority given to those of Native Hawaiian descent to avoid moving away from their native culture due to financial hardship.

Mahalo to Legislators Awa, Keohokalole, and McKelvey for your consideration in making the voices of Hawai’i residents heard. Therefore, I urge the committee to support SB 2617 in hopes that younger Native Hawaiian generations will be able to live happily at home while being able to have a balanced lifestyle with less financial worries.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:43:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalena	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to stop foreigners / outsiders from purchasing in land & property in Hawai'i. Our people are struggling enough with trying to find affordable places to live. Then comes foreigners who don't even live in Hawai'i buying up our lands & our properties to make a profit for themselves. As a native Hawaiian, I believe these lands & properties should be for us, the people of Hawai'i. The people who make Hawai'i. Our people are being driven out of this state because foreigners are buying up lands causing housing prices to skyrocket. Mahalo Brenton Awa for standing up for the people of Hawai'i & letting us be heard!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:43:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wehi Nakano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill so that my children have a chance of staying in Hawai'i! There are far too many properties being bought up by foreigners! Why are we even in the United States if almost half of the state is owned by people, entities, corporations outside of the country!!!!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:43:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keana Haili-Mizumoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Keana Haili-Mizumoto am supporting the bill SB2617 as a Native Hawaiian representative.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:43:29 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahilahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahilahi Balogbog-Kunukau

Hālau Ku Mana

2101 Makiki Heights Dr.

braxcina.bk@halaukumana.org

808-852-1658

02/06/2024

Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

2101 Makiki Heights Dr.

HON, HI 96822

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Lahilahi Balogbog-kunukau , and I am a 11th grade student at Hālau Ku Mana. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimus indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Lahilahi Balogbog-kunukau

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:43:31 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiasha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:44:05 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We need to address this. I believe this is the first step in the right direction. We shouldn't have vacant homes along beaches or empty towers in kakaako while people are living with 10 other people to make ends meet.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:44:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mele Taufahema	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mele Taufahema

Halāu Kū Māna

2101 Makiki height Dr.

Honolulu, HI 96822

mele.taufahema@halaukumana.org

(808)-945-1600

2/6/24

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawai‘i, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Mele Taufahema, and I am a 11th grade student at Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawai'i.

The rising cost of housing in Hawai'i has become a significant barrier for many families, making it very difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimus indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen many of my classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options which has caused many of my classmates to continuously move due to not being able to afford to live in a house for at least 6 months. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committee to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where families can thrive. My lahui has been through many devastation due to not being able to afford housing. Many of my classmates have had to be homeless at some point in our lives. I ask you to please help the people of Hawai'i and have a little sympathy for us. Many of our families have been priced out of our own homes. Hawai'i wants our land back and by giving it to us it will help us build our lahui back up! Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Mele Taufahema

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:44:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristi Kinney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting a written testimony in support of SB2617. I am born and raised on the island of kauai, I am 4th generation to reside in the house I reside in. Our little town of Kilauea has changed drastically. While I'd love to see other regulations and rules pass regarding purchasing property—SB2617 is a start. We need to make sure we take care of our people first. Native Hawaiians are dying while waiting on the list to acquire a home. Allowing foreigners to purchase property anywhere in Hawaii is taking away land from actual residents. Hawaii is a very special place. It's been exploited for way too long. SB2617 is a start to some positive change for the hawaii residents. Hawaii residents should always come first... before selling land to foreigners, and also before tourism. I believe SB2617 is a start in the right direction.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:45:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pukaninui Hussey-Mendes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pukaninui Hussey-Mendes

Halau Ku Mana

2101 Makiki height Dr.

Honolulu, HI 96822

Pukaninui.hm@halaukumana.org

808-945-1600

Feb 6, 2024

Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees

2101 Makiki height Dr.

Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96822]

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing.

I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Pukaninui, and I am a 11th grade student at Halau Ku Mana. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimus indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Pukaninui Hussey-Mendes

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:45:28 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2617.

As a Kanaka Maoli and native of Oahu, I believe we should keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands and stop foreigners from purchasing our 'āina.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:46:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zandon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Zandon Campania

Halau Ku Mana

2101 Makiki height Dr.

Honolulu, HI 96822

zandon.campania@halaukumana.org

(808)945-1600

Feb - 6 - 2024

Senate Committee

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name Zandon Campania and I am a [grade level] student at Halau Ku Mana. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimus indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:46:41 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

Prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest. Defines foreign principal. Requires a foreign principal that owns real property that was acquired before this measure's effective date to register the ownership with the Attorney General. Requires a buyer of real property to provide a signed affidavit attesting that the buyer is not a foreign principal. Authorizes the forfeiture of real property or an interest in real property that is owned or acquired unlawfully. Establishes penalties. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025. Appropriates moneys.

**CPN/TCA,
WAM/JDC**

Subject: Urgent Support for SB2617

February 06, 2024

Aloha kakou (everyone openly) specifically Senate, Legislature, Attorney General and those parties related to support of Bill SB2617,

As a descendent of long term residents of Hawai'i, pre-colonial contact, mother, educator, and contemporary resident, devoted member of our teacher union, I am reaching out to you with deep concern, seeking your support to address and approve SB2617.

Not more than one month ago, I was disturbed from my slumber by a text message from a foreign party soliciting quick cash money to sell my property. This is but one of the many

text messages my father/mother, grandmother have been pressured and bothered with over the past ten years or more. In this time, with the growth of internet capabilities I have also seen our property for sale on various social media platforms, and web. Apps. that are soliciting our property without authorization, many of which are foreign entities.

During this time, I have also watched small family homes slowly transition into large monster homes, sometimes housing up to ten families in separated sub-units in the home. I can count 7 new monster homes on my block and with this also includes competition for parking spaces, these homes are unsanitary and generally only provide one trash can for multiple home units.

It is understandable that the incredible cost of living is causing people to settle for selling properties. Investment in large monster homes housing multiple family units is helping our community to live in these debilitating times. My only wonder is why? Why are foreign investors contributing to helping our people to thrive in our communities and not the actual people who employ potential resources for our residence but instead are still eager to allow foreign investors to buy property for increased capital gain? I am well aware that these foreign investors are contributing a very large excess amount of funds compared to a resident of Hawai'i and even United States citizens.

I urge you to think about the future and not temporary monetary gains. What could happen is to stop foreign sales and start developing similar style sub-units for our people to live in peace and allow our economy to thrive again. Money will come when housing is affordable to the people and they can invest in recreational activities. These quick sales for large lump sums of money end up becoming empty lots or overcrowded unsanitary housing. Sale of large buildings is polluting our air quality and visibility. Refer to islands like French Polynesian for reference. In these spaces people are not allowed to develop beyond a certain height because value is decreased by reduced visibility. People invest in tropical spaces because they want to see the landscape, escape city life, and be in rural spaces. Selling Hawai'i for quick cash is lazy, irresponsible, ignorant, and not wise. I would like to think that you whom are reading this letter are wise citizens? I urge you to support SB2617 and begin investing in our people not foreign investors.

Sincerely,

Melissa Lehua Novikoff

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:47:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimie Miner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of 2617 SB Relating to Real Property

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony to express my support for 2617 SB Relating to Real Property. As a 38 year old, native Hawaiian mother of 3 young children, I have personally experienced the challenges faced by many native Hawaiians when it comes to living in Hawai'i yet alone owning a piece of our beloved 'āina.

For generations, my family has been forced to rent our homes instead of enjoying the pride and stability that comes with owning a piece of Hawaii, our true home. This has hindered our ability to establish a long-lasting connection to the land and has prevented us from fully participating in the economic and cultural growth of our community.

I believe that this bill is a crucial step towards rectifying the inequities that have plagued native Hawaiians in the realm of real property ownership. By creating opportunities for more native Hawaiians to own their homes, this legislation will empower our community and help preserve our cultural heritage.

Furthermore, this bill will ensure that Hawaii remains a place where native Hawaiians can thrive and contribute to the overall well-being of the state. By prioritizing the ownership of Hawaii by native Hawaiians, we can safeguard our unique identity and prevent the over-influence of those who do not have a deep connection to our land and culture.

This bill represents a significant step towards addressing the historical injustices faced by native Hawaiians in the realm of property ownership. By supporting this legislation, we can create a more inclusive and equitable society, where native Hawaiians can finally own a piece of our cherished home.

Mahalo for considering my testimony and for your commitment to the welfare of our community.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kimie Miner

Honolulu, HI

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:47:20 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Reyes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB2617. Although this is not the answer to keeping home prices affordable for kamaaina, I feel that its at least a step in the right direction. We need to figure out a way to keep our kamaaina, especially Hawaiians here at home. Other states have adopted similar legislation. Lets follow suit. Mahalo!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:47:51 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elayna K Hefele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My Testimony:

Aloha my name is Elayna a native Hawaiian who was born and raised on Maui. This is a big stance and change for my generation and the generation to come. To be able to stop outside purchases from foreigners.

my grandmother is 85 and is in the 400 range of Hawaiian home lands.

How can we the people of Hawaiian decent survive and thrive without access to property within our financial means? We stand divide, from a nation who spoke of supporting us and uplifting our people.

Who brought this beautiful islands to foreigners to enjoy? How would they begin to understand what Aloha meant, if they didn't experience it from the Hawaiian people first.

"No Hawaiians, No Aloha!"

I am a single mother who use to work 3 jobs just to send my kid through private school and enjoy every opportunity he invested himself in. I am a devoted mother who eventually made the choice to move back in with my family. I couldn't afford rent on my income alone and providing my son with the future he wanted. I sacrificed the means for the greater good of my child's future.

For his future this bill would mean he has a chance to own a home for his family and generations to come.

With deep Aloha,

Elayna

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:48:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Izaiah hau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is Izaiah Hau and i am 17 years old. Yes i am in Support of sb2617 because my family had to move away because of the fact that they couldnt afford to stay in Hawaii. I wanna raise a family in Hawaii so it would be nice to not have to worry about if i would be able to afford it or not.

Thank you for your time

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:48:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Cabrerros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Foreign buyers shouldn't even have the RIGHT to buy real estate properties in Hawaii. Most of them are just going to stay empty anyways, like all the Ward Village Condos. So it's pointless.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:49:46 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Eldred	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I grew up on Maui and love Hawaii so much. We need to allow residents the opportunity to buy property here. Only residents of Hawaii should be able to purchase property in Hawaii. Since this is not the law, non-residents have been buying property all over Hawaii making housing prices unaffordable for residents. This is forcing residents like myself to consider leaving Hawaii to be able to buy property. We should have to make this choice to have to leave our home of Hawaii to purchase property.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:49:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Patronis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because I believe it is a step in a direction to keep us Hawaiians home. There are too many loved ones I know who move away just for affordability. With so many other state's implementing similar measures why can't the people of Hawaii have the exact same opportunities.

Mahalo

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:49:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole K Andrade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a tax paying, native resident who supports this bill.

Mahalo!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:50:30 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keremoana Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

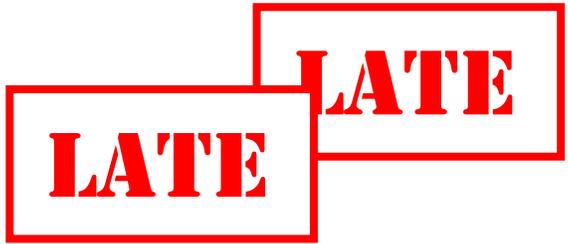
Comments:

As a local resident of Hawaii, I strongly believe that Hawaiian lands should not be bought by foreigners. These lands hold deep cultural and historical significance to the indigenous people of Hawaii, and allowing outsiders to purchase them risks further exploitation and displacement of native communities. Protecting Hawaiian lands ensures the preservation of their unique heritage and sovereignty for future generations.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:50:34 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kulia Chadderton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Foreigners should not be able to purchase Hawai'i land or property. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. And for those who are already living here. People of Hawai'i need affordable living options and not being bought out by people who don't even live here. This bill needs to go through! It is dependent upon our generations to come. We will not be pushed out of our OWN ancestral lands.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:51:15 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Genesis Kalawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of SB2617 for the benefit of the Native Hawaiian population and discontinuing the ability for foreign entities to purchase/own land here in Hawaii.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:51:20 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahili Liu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nō kākou,

My name is Kāhili U. Liu-Hanohano and I support the Long overdue bill (SB2617) and it's initiative to finally put a stop to foreigner ability to purchase land in Hawai'i! I am a native Hawaiian women, born and raised beneath the slopes of Pālolo and Kaimukī on the island of O'ahu. I'll be 25 this year and for the last 12-15 years of my young life, I've watched, defended, and lost family members and friends to the ugly waving hands of foreign land-grab initiatives. Speaking as a native Hawaiian, it's to our genealogical understanding that when we look to the origin of our people WE ARE BORN FROM 'ĀINA (land). Just like a child will always be connected to its mother from birth, we as your modern kānaka maoli have always been binded to the land and therefore can feel the inherited responsibility to defend, take great care, nurture, and feed that which has always sustained us! How many of you have even thought of giving your mother back even a fraction of what she gives to you in your entire life?

This bill helps support this worldview and defends a kānaka maoli's ability to access, utilize, and heal a land that's been stripped of its freedom and forced to change over a short time under illegal foreign control.

It's our time to raise our voices and take back what has been abused and misused in foreign hands for to long. FOREIGN HANDS that do not understand the traditional ways and processes in which our lands have naturally functioned for generations. Who do not possess the patience and mindfulness needed to guide change in a land. Who do not recognize the major consequences of mismanaging natural resources and how detrimental that can be when surviving on an island in the Pacific. Who will not atone for the rare species, ecosystems, historical sites, and familial burial grounds that have been lost, destroyed, and desecrated for the sake of a new hotel, mall, or multi-million dollar wave pool that has less to do with serving the existing local communities at large and more to do with filling the pockets of wealthy foreign business women/men across the world, not Hawai'i.

Please take my young words into consideration because behind them carries the mana (power) of a multitude of voices that have loved, lived, and cared for this land in ways I only hope I can see happening again in my lifetime. Therefore, my future and the future of all kānaka maoli will be determined today by the result of this bill. So I ask again, how will you treat your mother today?

Mahalo a nui for the opportunity to be heard and I will pray for your sound decisions. Ke akua me 'oukou.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:51:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashton Phillips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Ashton Phillips, hereby support this bill.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:52:04 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hi'ipolei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi'ipōlei Kekahu

Hālau Kū Māna

2101 Makiki Height Dr.

hiipolei.kekahu@halaukumana.org

(808) 945-1600

2/6/24

Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Hi'ipōlei Kekahu, and I am a 11th grade student at Hālau Kū Māna. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimus indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of Chairs Lee and Keohokalole to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Hi'ipōlei Kekahu

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:52:54 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nani Hicks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The attorney state general claim that this bill is unconstitutional is a thinly veiled representation of their own financial interests. Other states have passed similar laws and the same should be done here. Hawai'i is losing it's population and invested citizens at an alarming rate. It is the duty of our government to ensure that the people of Hawai'i are able to live and thrive here, and not to be bought out by foreign investors.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:53:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill which will prevent foreign entities/persons from purchasing lands in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:54:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shar Manu-Olevao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Shar Manu-Olevao and I support bill sb2617 or also known as the "long overdue" bill. I've never been one to really take action or even, sadly to say, vote for bills or even politicians. I can count on one hand the amount of times that I have actually voted for something or someone. In this case with this bill, I feel strongly about what it represents. Being a native Hawaiian, I believe this bill will only scratch the surface of what our Hawaiian people need. This bill will open doors for the people of Hawaii and all that call this home.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:54:28 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Van Gieson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Foreigners should not be allowed to purchase or own land in hawaii.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:54:50 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gretchen Losano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB2617, this is so incredibly important for the future of our lāhui. People who do not live in or have kuleana in Hawai‘i should not be about to purchase investment properties or second homes here. There are already such limited resources, especially in real estate, what little is left needs to be preserved for the current and future generations of our lāhui so they don't have to move away.

Mahalo,

Gretchen Losano

Lahaina, Maui

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:55:17 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

Land Back!!!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:55:34 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ariana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's time the Hawaiian people have access to their own land. They need & have the birth right to any & all housing in Hawai'i. Foreigners do not have the right to land before them.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:56:04 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shannon denning	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is an honor to testify in support of SB2671; which addresses a growing problem in Hawai'i, the acquisition of land by foreigners, nonresidents, and corporations controlled by foreign countries. This problem must be addressed this session. I am testifying in favor of SB2671 because foreign land ownership has quadrupled in the last decade limiting the land that can be purchased by Hawai'i residents. It is also driving the price of purchasing land and homes to raise our children here in Hawai'i to astronomical amounts consequently buying a home in Hawai'i is out of reach for hard working Hawaiian people.

According to public records, foreigners own thousands of acres and that number keeps rising. The housing shortage and skyrocketing costs of housing is largely due to foreigners buying up all of our land because they have more money than us.

We already have laws that prohibit foreign nationals from purchasing land but it is not effective. Foreigners are able to circumvent laws by purchasing long term leases such as 99 year lease. 7 other states have laws prohibiting land purchases by foreigners and some are more effective than others. The fact that other states have laws banning the sale of their land to foreigners should serve to disprove arguments of those who oppose this bill.

There is no significant counterargument to passing this bill in any other state. Something needs to be passed out of this committee. The current draft is better than nothing, but I would suggest amendments:

1. Do not limit the bill to foreigners. Only Hawai'i residents should be allowed to own property in Hawai'i there is not enough land to meet the needs of Hawai'i's current legal residents.
2. Delete the loopholes. There is no need for exceptions.
3. Prohibit circumvention via long-term' leases.

I am a kanaka maoli, registered voter, and contributing member of my community. I work long hard hours to be able to afford my rent. I rent a 3 bed home considered to be affordable housing at \$3200 per month. I have to apply every year with the state housing department to qualify to rent this home. Does that sound affordable to you? I am a single mother and must work 2 jobs to afford this. I do not get see my four walls and my keiki before they go to bed. My 19 year old son cannot work because he has to help me take care of his siblings. He wants to work. He is a talented mechanic who is unable to start a professional career because he has to stay home and help take care of his siblings. Opposition to this bill would prevent ohana like mine from ever owning property in Hawai'i because it limits the supply and drives up the cost of purchasing a home because foreign investors have more money than me.

Mahalo me ka ha'aha'a,

Shannon Mauna'ala Denning

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:56:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikole Keahiolalo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was born and raised on Kauai. It breaks my heart to see people I was born and raised with be priced out of paradise. Our island is being taken over by foreigners and I'm worried for the future generations. We've had enough.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:56:48 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalimakuhilani Southard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of the "Long Overdue" bill SB2617. As a kanaka maoli I feel it is important to not allow foreigners to purchase properties and buying land in Hawai'i. This bill needs to be passed.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:57:20 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Brito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Michael Brito. Originally born and raised in Maui Hawaii. Myself as well as my other half were forced to move away from home to Las Vegas NV due to being "priced out of our home".

We found it is too expensive to rent and virtually impossible to afford a home in Maui, due to the huge amount of people from all over the world coming to Hawaii to purchase homes to use as Air B&B's or vacation homes. As we've lived in the mainland all we've thought about was the day we'd be able to move back home and create a simple life for ourselves and our family. But with the rising cost of homes/prices and having to compete with people that far outweigh our financial capabilities, it is virtually impossible to do just that!

If this bill is passed it will allow Hawaiians to remain and come back to our home, live a fair and honest life, and be able to take care of ourselves and our future generations.

Mahalo,

Michael Brito

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:57:30 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ava Tynanes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaiian people have faced so much oppression from America and to not pass a bill so Hawaiians can afford their own home is unjust. This is Hawaiians home not America why can America take everything while we are pushed out of our homes? If foreigners continue to buy houses and land there will be no more Hawaiians in Hawaii. We belong in Hawaii this is our home we should come first not outsiders. Allowing this bill to pass would ensure future generations can stay in their home and not be forced out.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:57:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory campbell jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon, my name is Greg Campbell. I've lived in Hawaii my entire life. I support Bill SB2617 to prohibit foreign entites from purchasing real estate properties in our state. I believe Foreigners have drastically affected the supply of housing which has pushed prices out of reach for many local families. There are countless stories of Hawaii families moving to other states because Hawaii is simply not affordable. If there were restrictions for real estate properties which only allowed local people to purchase, the housing market would naturally make a correction. Hawaii is a beautiful place, but it's the people that make Hawaii what it is. Let's try to keep Hawaii people in Hawaii. Thank you for your time.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:58:10 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maelani Valentine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Hawaii has extremely limited land resources. Our citizens have been pushed out of the islands due to housing costs that are so high because of investors looking to make a quick dollar. This situation is unique to Hawaii. Land purchases should be limited to those people residing in Hawaii who will be living in their homes. Foreign buying of residential properties or any land in Hawaii should not be allowed.

thank you for reading my testimony.

Maelanie Valentine

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:58:22 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shalyn Rosek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2617

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:58:41 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juraesha Ii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

my name is Juraesha Ii, and I support bill SB2617 banning foreigners from purchasing property in Hawaii. I strongly believe that this bill is long overdue. The most important part of what makes Hawaii so special is it's people, but even a blind man could see that greed has driven our people out and foreign interests in. I pray that those with the power to pass this bill does what is right and not what they see is best for profit.

mahalo.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:00:28 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with this Bill and want it to be passed. Passing this bill will insure that way my children won't be bought out in the future by foreigners who don't have any ties to the land. I want my kids to be able to afford to live peacefully in their homeland and for the Hawaiian generations to come.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:00:31 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
journee benkman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All Hawaiians duely represented in the proof birth certification can and will be eligible to purchase homes on any and all of Hawai‘is land. Unfortunately, family members of my ‘Ohana have been "priced out of paradise" and have since been relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada since the year of 2017. My fiancé and I are currently spending \$1,600 in rent for a 500 sq ft studio. Living with family is not ideal here on the east side of O'ahu due to the small residential homes that have been built; so we must continue to live paycheck to paycheck in order somewhat live comfortably. We are 19 and 21 years of age and living in fear that we as kanaka, born and raised in Kahuku, HI, will NEVER be able to afford housing here on our motherland. With that being said, preventing foreigners, mass land purchasers, corporations and other entities looking to buy our precious land should be denied access to any and all areas of Hawai‘is land. And just maybe, my fiancé and I will have a bigger chance of raising our keiki one day here in the paradise that once belonged to just Hawaiians. E ola!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:01:29 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ala Manibog	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is ala born and raised on the island of Maui. Many Hawaiian families will be able to stay here and not move to the mainland. We cannot compete with foreigners who come here and buy! So I support this bill! Hawai'i is not Hawai'i if our people are not here !

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:02:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Breceda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My Name is Brian Breceda. I was raised here on Oahu since I was three years old. I'm a first generation migrant worker from Mexico. I just got married in 2022 to my wife and we now have a 5 month old son. We are currently looking at getting a single family home. But unfortunately we cannot afford to buy one at this moment. I work full time and my wife takes care of my son. She is planning to going back to work soon as a substitute teacher with the DOE. I work In Automotive business. I support this bill because foreign investors buy the land for profits and not for the community. I've lived here for the past 22 years of my life and I would like to continue to live here for future generations to come. I understand that there are some property for single family homes like Ho'opili and Koa ridge in my area. But sadly "Affordable housing" here is not so affordable for some people. Staring at the 600,000 thousands for a condo is ridiculous. And a single family home starting at 1.1 million dollars is just unrealistic to me. I support this bill and hope to purchase a single family home for me and my family and future generations to come. Because living In a "Filipino house " with 8-10 people 8 bedroom House is nice and all but we would like a place of our own so we can move out of my in-laws house. That is all Aloha 🙌

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:02:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
alexander hubbard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: It has been decades overdue that Law is in place to protect Hawaiis people from foreign corporations and private entities from obtaining land for exploitative interest solely based on generating or maintained wealth in the form of debt. This equity generated does not benefit Hawaiis people as a whole and only encourages an already deepened divide within our social economical class system to further split the fabric of Aloha of our communities. This disease must be addressed immediately and it must begin at the root of the problem. I, Alexander Hubbard support this bill.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:02:30 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mckenna Panui-Scobie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai ka kou

I support bill SB2617. We the people of Hawaii are in need of a bill that is in the best interest of our people and our future. Too many of us Hawaiians are forced out in order to own land. I really feel this bill is long overdue and will make a difference.

Mahalo

McKenna Panui-Scobie

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:03:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a kanaka who is born and raised here and whose lineage goes back to the 1700s, I support this bill because it actually does something about the situation we have found ourselves. If something like this bill isn't adopted, I know that my children and grand children will be unable to stay, live, and thrive in their homeland (like so many of us).

If changes can't be made to level out the cost of homes here with the median pay residents of hawaii receive, blocking out of stat/country dollars from buying property could be a great start. Not only is it CULTURALLY important to do this, but not allowing outside dollars to come in and buy up our homes gives us the time as residents (and lawmakers) to close the monumental gap in housing prices versus median income.

Please consider moving this bill forward and letting the people of Hawiaii vote on this measure. Thank you for your time.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:03:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caitlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because I see how many local families struggle to acquire affordable housing, or purchase and maintain land of their own. People are forced to move out of state because they cannot afford to live here anymore, ripping local families apart. Sometimes entire families are forced to move because of the completely unaffordable cost of living. There are many, many homeless all over the island. Low income housing consistently has wait lists that can go from months to years worth of waiting. Many people work multiple jobs just to barely get by. Most that own their own homes have multiple jobs and elderly relatives of typical retirement age still working because of how high the cost of owning land and house is in addition to the cost of living. Yet there is constantly out of state developers expeditiously purchasing and building "affordable" housing. The locals push back as much as they can but there needs to be a larger force of protection. The problem is rooted, and can be remedied, from the inside, and the people on the outside can only do and say so much. The voice of the people does not seem to be enough to stop these developers who come and completely disrupt, if not destroy, ecosystems, sacred land, historical property. The government needs to take whatever measures necessary to protect not only the people but the culture of Hawai'i. I hope that this testimony pushes the respective officials to do right by the people they are supposed to represent. Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:04:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalawina Lono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Kalawina Lono, on behalf of myself and my ‘ohana am compelled to urge the Hawai‘i state legislature to pass senate bill 2617. Although the sovereignty and independence of the Hawaiian Kingdom was never relinquished or extinguished, and the United States' federal government has failed to comply with the laws of occupation for over a hundred and thirty one years, I believe this bill could initiate such proceedings. According to Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which provides that the occupying power shall not "transfer parts of its own population into the territory it occupies", even American citizens residing in the continent are not permitted to migrate or purchase property in the Hawaiian Islands. SB2617 could be the step in the door that we, the people of Hawai‘i need to protect our interests as aboriginals of this land, and our ‘ohana from being priced out of our own homes by foreigners and foreigner interests. Mahalo nui, a na KeAkua e hele pū me kākou. Ke aloha nui.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:04:16 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alicia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaiian people are displaced everyday due to foreigners purchasing properties and raising the cost of living making it unaffordable for Kanaka to live on their own land. There is no Hawaii without Hawaiians. Keep Hawaiian land in Hawaiian hands.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:04:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Cote	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:05:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HAWAII WAS STOLEN...AND IS CONTINUING TO BE STOLEN. NO MORE!!!! How would you like it if someone came to your home and bought out YOUR LAND? EXACTLY. GET OUT OF HAWAII FOREIGNERS

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:06:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sanoë fonohema	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please approve this bill our ohana is part of the Lahaina wild fire we have loved in Hawaii all our life we have struggled to put food on the table and just to keep our heads a float but we will never leave Hawaii , Hawaii is our home we don't ever want to be pushed out of Hawaii so that others can buy out our property just because we are struggling we need help not just for our generation but for our kids and grandchildren protect our kupunas and our lands and the culture that runs deep in our lands

thank you ,

sanoë fonohema

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:06:29 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ryder	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a native Hawaiian born and raise here on Oahu, we a nation of Hawaii is pleading to ban foreign investors and non residents to stop buying Hawaiian lands because we as a people are being priced out of our own land and if we continue to sell our land what's the purpose of calling this place Hawaii if there will be no HAWAIIANS left on HAWAIIAN LAND!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:06:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymond Madigan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We urgently need to stop the sale of our precious Aina to entities whose sole interest is profit!
We should do everything possible to prevent real estate speculation and provide help for local families who are priced out of the market.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:07:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruben Lualemana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ruben Lualemana and I support bill SB2617. I am 43 years of age and have rented a home for \$2500 a month utilities not included so I know how tough it is going that route. I always wanted to purchase a home for myself here but I can't see paying \$750,000 for a small house here when I could get a mansion in another state. This is my home and if this a way for me to get that chance I'm all in to support this to make it affordable for not only myself but for the people in hawaii.

Mahalo

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:07:23 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanel Walker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am kanaka and I am a kupa of this land. I **support** bill SB2617 entirely. The fight our kupuna once fought continues to present day to have the 'āina properly placed back in the hands of kanaka. Foreginers are ignorant and do not realize the setbacks it puts upon kanaka not being able to afford these lands that are selfishly being brought by outsiders due to the western living of money. In all honesty, 'āina cannot be brought. He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka. 'Āina should NOT be brought, should NOT be developed upon and fully left alone as it has always been before the arrival of foreginers. Please consider this bill to move forward for the sake of the nect generation of kanaka.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:07:28 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Our priority should first and foremost be our homeless Kānaka that have been priced out of their homes due to this land seizure from outside entities! How many homes are on these stolen lands that house outsiders for 3 months out of the year? That is not pono! We shouldn't be having streets filled with our own people because they are getting priced out. We need to bring back our kānaka who have moved away because without our physical descendants to this land, the land will no longer provide in the way our Hawaiian ancestors have taken care of it before. As the government your priority should always always be helping our own people first NOT by selling off land to people who wish to change the cultural landscape of this precious place. For once you can change the history of Hawaii, no longer should we allow this kind of things to happen. When Kauikeaouli made the land grant government program it was for the benefit of his own people, yet foreigners came with wads of cash and bought them out. Don't keep repeating this trauma. Fix it now before our islands are not islands anymore. Mahalo.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:07:39 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE	LATE
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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Kawaihoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiians have been taken advantage of for too long. We are at a critical point in our history. Our lands are our blood and life. Foreigners already own too much, and Hawaiians have been chased out in staggering numbers. Our children's future here is in jeopardy. This bill is constitutional, and it is on the right side of history. Do what is pono for the people or please resign.

Mahalo,

Bruce Kawaihoa and 'ohana

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:07:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer M Pamintuan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator Keohokalole and Senator Lee,

My name is Jennifer Pamintuan and I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2617, Relating to Real Property. Thank you so much for hearing this bill and for allowing testimony. This is a very important issue to myself as well as many other people in our community. Please support this bill and keep the Hawaii Housing market open to Hawaii Residents. By doing this we will protect Hawaii, its residents and a culture we love so deeply.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Pamintuan

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:08:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamra Ashlee Probst	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill as it states in its name is infact, long over due. I am in full support of this bill that does not allow foreign states residents to purchase lands, and homes in the state of Hawai'i. More so we should have stricter affordances for people to become a state resident. This I believe is a start in moving forward with solving problems for the people of Hawai'i.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:08:34 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NICOLE KAMAKELE	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kawehi and I was born and raised in Kaimuki. My great great grandparents built the house I grew up in, my keiki are the fifth generation to live there. We grew up in a quiet neighborhood with the same neighbors we considered ohana. One of our neighbors was an elderly Japanese couple who eventually passed away and passed their house down to their daughter. Their daughter was approached by many Chinese investors offering all cash offers for the property. She eventually sold the house to a Chinese investor for 2 million dollars ALL CASH! The Chinese investor knocked the house down in no time and built a 14 bedroom home and cemented over the previous owners garden and made a parking lot. Now the street is busy with many people speeding up and down the road where our children play and the noise is very disturbing. It takes years for us to get a permit for a simple change to our house, but the fact that the Chinese investors pay the permit department to hurry up the permit and to pass things that aren't up to code is very disheartening. I am support of this bill to stand up for my kupuna that came before me to provide a home for 5 generations and for my keiki to possibly own a home in Hawai'i where they belong.

Mahalo,

Kawehi

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:08:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree on the proposal of this Bill SB2617.

Being born and raised here in Hawaii Island of Maui.

We have lost so much to outside foreigners buying up all the lands for their own benefits, they have bought so much land that there is a shortage of land for our own people to buy here in Hawaii. It also raises our land taxes higher when they build these huge expensive homes, causing us to be priced out of our own place of birth. Everything has gone up from food to rent or to buy a home. Enough is Enough. Hawaii is not for sale. Stop the Greed. This is our home and we want it to be for our future generations to come.

Please consider my testimony on Behalf of My Ohana who helped build Hawaii, working the Plantations.

Mahalo,

Daniel F Perry

God Bless This Beautiful State We Call Home

God Bless You All

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:09:41 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shylen Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2617

Aloha honorable members of the committee,

I write to you today to express my support for the proposition to restrict foreigners from purchasing land in Hawaii. While acknowledging the importance of cultural exchange and diversity, I firmly believe that implementing such restrictions is a necessary step to protect the interests and sovereignty of our nation.

Implementing restrictions on foreign land ownership can help preserve our cultural heritage. Land is not just a commodity, it holds immense historical and cultural significance. By allowing foreigners to freely purchase land, we risk diluting our national identity and eroding the sense of belonging that Native Hawaiians share. Maintaining control over land ownership ensures that our cultural values and traditions are protected for future generations.

Foreign investors possess significant financial resources that surpass those of the average citizen. Allowing them to freely purchase land can lead to astronomical property prices, making it increasingly difficult for locals to buy. The locals' dream of owning their own home or business property feels almost impossible. By implementing restrictions, we can level the playing field and ensure that our locals have fair access to land and property.

I firmly believe that restricting foreigners from purchasing land is a necessary step to preserving our cultural heritage and allowing our locals to buy a home and prevent them from moving away. We need to keep our people here at home, in Hawaii ... where they want to be, where they belong.

Mahalo for your consideration and time.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:10:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaena Kaohelaulii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Hawai'i, I fully support the proposed bill aimed at restricting foreigners from purchasing property in our state. This measure is essential to safeguarding the cultural integrity, environmental sustainability, and socioeconomic well-being of our islands. By curbing foreign ownership, we can address the pressing issues of skyrocketing property prices, dwindling affordable housing options, and the erosion of our local communities.

Hawai'i is not just a piece of real estate; it's our home, rich in cultural heritage and natural beauty. Allowing unchecked foreign investment threatens to turn our neighborhoods into mere commodities, driving up prices beyond the reach of many local residents and displacing families from their ancestral lands.

Moreover, unrestricted foreign ownership exacerbates environmental degradation as developers prioritize profit over conservation. By enacting this bill, we can regain control over our land use policies, ensuring that development respects our delicate ecosystems and preserves Hawai'i's unique biodiversity for future generations.

Furthermore, limiting foreign ownership will bolster our local economy by encouraging investment that prioritizes the needs of our communities. Instead of absentee landlords and speculative investors, we can foster a real estate market that supports sustainable growth, local businesses, and job creation.

In conclusion, I urge legislators to pass this bill as a critical step towards protecting the interests of Hawai'i's residents and preserving the essence of our island home. Let's take a stand to ensure that the aloha spirit thrives for generations to come.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:10:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pua Heimuli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing in support of SB 2617 RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY. We have a demand of housing and property ownership from our local community and this bill will be a step in the right direction to keep local people and Native Hawaiians here in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui,

Pua Heimuli

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:10:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riker Tansley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Committee,

My name is Riker Rangiahua Tansley, I've lived in east Oahu my entire life and have not only seen but felt the changes happening in our community around us. Being born and raised here on middle class income means that I've been renting my entire life. I am a second generation immigrant from New Zealand and I am a Tangata Whenua. In 2018 New Zealand introduced a law that sought to decrease the amount of foreigners investors obtaining and profiting on the sale, renting, and leasing of existing homes in the country by banning the sale of existing properties to non-NZ residents. I believe in giving power back to the indigenous peoples of the land in which we occupy. I believe that we should take New Zealands example in protecting the rights of their native peoples by protecting the rights and livelihoods of our peoples. This is why I am in complete and utter support of SB2617 because I believe it will promote a healthier space for the local and Native Hawaiian families to get the chance to become a homeowner so that they may secure a future in Hawaii for their family and loved ones. The current housing ecosystem in Hawaii is plagued, not only by the greed of foreign investors but the corruption of our public servants that have let it get to this point. With SB2617 in place it will hopefully serve as a beacon that we can change our ways and hold the greedy parasites contributing to the decline of Hawaiians in Hawaii accountable so that they may begin to do what's right and deserved of the local and Hawaiian Community.

Whakawhetai ki a koe mo to wa,

Riker R. Tansley

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:11:04 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Im a student at halau ku mana. My name is kyla kaauamo. I am hawaiian and my family owns land and I'd like it to stay that way pls

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:11:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maui Kela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To prohibit foreign buying gives more opportunities to local and or kanaka maoli families to rent housing more so to buying housing to continue living where they were raised. Why rent from a foreign entity when it's land we should be owning. I am in support of bill SB2617

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:12:46 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nolan Okalani Tallett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill in all aspects to STOP foreign entities, people and companies from purchasing land, titles, and any other properties here in Hawai'i. We have been priced out enough and need to stop the inflation on the sales of land here in Hawai'i. Mahalo!!

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2617

John Cravalho
91-3525 Kauluakoko St. Unit 2215
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
jcravalho1@gmail.com
(808) 372-5480
February 6, 2024

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Aloha kākou,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by allowing investors with local interests to manage real property acquisitions that benefit the needs of people in Hawai'i. It will further allow the state to generate revenue that will be kept in Hawai'i rather than to foreign governments. This change will give Hawai'i investors the ability to keep the lands "local" and not have the burden of competition of wealthy foreign investors bidding the land from under them.

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

John Cravalho
Educator

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:13:04 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya K.D. Alana	Testifying for Moʻi Awapuhi Shaunelle Kalauli Robinson of eHawaian Kingdom	Support	In Person

Comments:

On behalf of the Uncontested Mōʻī Awapuhi Shaunelle Kalauli Robinson of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Mōʻī Awapuhi is validated as the lineal descendant of Kamehameha V, Lota (Lot) Kapuāiwa Kalanimakua Aliʻiōlani Kalanikupuapaʻīkalaninui.

Mōʻī Awapuhi declares Imminent Domain and deems this legislature and State of Hawaiʻi government as invalid and fraudulent in breach of contracts, enacting International Law.

Mōʻī Awapuhi is enacting the constitution of 1864 and all international treaties that have been validated by way of the Aliʻi nui.

Mōʻī Awapuhi hereby ends this session and that is her judgement. If anyone belonging to the fraudulent government tries to inflict harm or arrest any Hawaiian subject in this room, you will be committing a war crime against the Hawaiian Kingdom and International law. All of you must bow in her presence.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:13:17 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacynthia Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou - myself and my o'hana support SB 2617 for the following reasons:

1) LEGAL

Per US Public Law 103-150, "Native Hawaiian people never directly relinquished to the United States their claims to their inherent sovereignty as a people over their national lands, either through the Kingdom of Hawaii or through a plebiscite or referendum" so how in good conscience can anyone "sell" land that is not theirs? Until the land is returned to the Kanaka Maoli as rightful "owners", resale of the land to anyone, especially people who are not full time residents of Hawai'i, is a moot point.

2) ECONOMIC

Tourism is the largest industry in Hawai'i but Hawai'i is not just a place, it is a People. As more and more People are displaced from their homeland due to foreign investment and non-permanent residents, the aina will continue to be stripped of it's mana due to the pilau practices used against it for profit.

For example, I have an acquaintance who owns a home on Maui. She spends half the year on Maui, using it's resources, watering her lawn, etc. but does not participate in the community to restore anything she takes. Her response was, "never". She said she would come to Maui for as long as she can without every having to pay taxes as a Hawai'i residents. Again, taking and taking but not giving.

If we do not protect it, Hawai'i will become just another "touristy" vacation trap like Mexico or the Bahamas.

3) PRECEDENT

Hawai'i is not the only place considering the impact of investments by entities disengaged from the culture, land, and community. Throughout the continental US and Europe, laws such as this are passing to protect and preserve the culture and people.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:13:25 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii will only be filled with foreigners soon because locals cannot afford housing in their own state. Foreigners have a much more likely chance of outbidding locals, displacing many people especially Hawaiians. There are more Hawaiians living outside of Hawaii then in Hawaii because we are being priced out of our own home. Mahalo

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:13:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunny Dance	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with this bill being passed as I believe it will greatly affect the community. Keeping Hawai'i property in the hands of the local people, or at the very least, US Citizens, is pertinent to the islands. The more people that actually live here that own land, the better. We need change. We need to make it attainable for locals to own homes.

PLEASE pass this bill.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:15:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian pasco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully back this bill. How can we compete with mainland and foreign investors when it comes to housing? State reps getting pay raises, DOE head getting a raise? But the people are left with low wages, high taxes, 1 million dollar homes prices? You all sit in your expensive homes and nice cars, while the average family scrapes by.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:15:18 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrienne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because so many local people have been priced out of their communities from foreign investors. Housing prices keep going up because these people will pay way over the asking price and local people can't compete with that.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:17:16 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime Lucero-Sagon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jaime Kamalani Ku Lucero-Sagon & I am testifying on behalf of myself & in support of our Native Hawaiians & locals.

Bill SB2617 would greatly aid in solving our housing shortage problems that not only affect long time residents but also Native Hawaiians who are forced out of their home lands because of these issues.

Most foreign buyers that own real property only own to gain income. They own a lot of our "affordable homes" & don't plan on living there. Their owned properties are put up for rent to gain income off our people & make it hard for us to own our own property. A lot of Natives & locals leave the state to find housing & homes elsewhere because of affordable housing/property shortages caused by foreign buyers. SB2617 will prevent foreign buyers from using our resources (our land) against us. Native Hawaiians & long time residents need homes & shouldn't be driven out to find places to live.

With that being said, I fully support SB2617 & I thank the council members who made this happen.

Mahalo piha,

Jaime Kamalani Ku Lucero-Sagon

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:18:26 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Pokipala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB2617 because I want my children and the rest of the keiki who were born and raised here to be able to live here without worrying if they can afford a home or not. We need to start thinking about the livelihood of our young ones of Hawai`i and not money as the driving factor to what makes Hawai`i, Hawai`i. Without the people, Hawai`i will not be what it is, no ALOHA, no "aunty's & uncle's" who take care of the keiki, no shakas when changing lanes, no revival of the `āina that feeds the people. Our youth are already disconnected to their home land because of the trauma their elders went through, what more do they need to deal with? Let's stand up for what we know is right, pass the bill, & the ammendments can come soon after. Mahalo for all the hard work you put into our state, so now is the time to make the real change for the future of our home!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:18:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Thrasher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill and stop foreigners from buying property in Hawai'i. This land should be for its citizens so Hawaiians may thrive and continue to contribute to the aina and raise their families here. Kanaka Maoli have been forced out and should be able to live on their land without the threat of non citizens profiting off of an aina where they do not reside. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:19:15 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahealani Mokuau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As Kanaka maoli ... I support the intent of this bill!

Restricting foreigners from purchasing real estate in Hawai‘i will not only narrow the market of homebuyers in Hawai‘i, but it will allow for a more competitive market for Hawai‘i residents.

The current policy that allows foreigners to monopolize and exploit Hawai‘i's land and resources for profit has created an immense economic crisis for local families who live and labor here. SB2617 must be passed to put an end to this unjust exploitation of Hawai‘i's ‘āina and to see a thriving Hawai‘i economy.

This is not a foreign concept and is seen in many other countries and also states to protect the interest of its own people. Hawai‘i must do better in prioritizing Hawai‘i's own people versus prioritizing the highest profit and this is just one step in doing so.

Do better for the natives, or we will just be a memory in the bishop museum ... if at all. Mahalo!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:19:22 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as this is one of the only bills that I have seen that ACTUALLY benefits the people of this land. We should have had this long ago to protect our island people. So many of our local people have to live in a multigenerational household because homes are being bought by foreigners and or used for investment properties. When I am driving through Ward at night, seeing how empty these buildings are because they are "summer homes" for foreigners. This is an injustice to the people of Hawaii. This bill is important to protect our local community and the so called "aloha spirit" that both the state and businesses profit over.

PEOPLE > profit

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:19:45 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylie Kawena Kawaihalau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am born and raised in Hawai'i on the island of Kaua'i. I moved away to California for school and have a strong desire to return home, where my family still resides, to start my life. I have always dreamed of owning my own home on the island that raised me and to give my kids the childhood I had. With real estate prices escalating and the only people able to afford it are wealthy individuals, my dream of returning home slowly dies. Not only do these people buy our properties, they purchase 2, 3, 4 lots and they take away any chance for the local people. My ancestors are one with the land and it physically hurts my being when reconnecting with my home and planting roots for my family feels so far out of reach.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:19:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:21:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Kihei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alyssa Kihei and I am in support for this bill to move forward to stop outside non locals to buy land. It's so sad that lots of locals are being moved out due to overpriced houses and land. My own family were moved due being overpriced. It's outrageous that non locals can do this. We want to keep Hawaiian land in Hawaiian hands. We want to live here forever, not build a new house and gain money from it. If they are not locals or of Hawaiian they shouldn't be able to buy land. Would it be right if we all went to Bali and bought land and charged \$4,000 on rent? No it wouldn't be right! Please pass this bill so that we as Hawaiians can stay and live on our beautiful island!

Mahalo,

Alyssa Kihei

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:21:41 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617, at the rate foreign investors are buying up the land there will be no homes remaining for the future kids to purchase at a reasonable price and most of these investment homes are vacant half of the year or turned into vacation rentals. It's affected the North Shore so much.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:22:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Asinate Taleni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2617, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

PROHIBITS FOREIGN PRINCIPALS FROM ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE OR ANY INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE, EXCEPT A DE MINIMUS INDIRECT INTEREST.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ON
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

TIME: 3:00 PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

PLACE: State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

IN STRONG SUPPORT

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2617, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.

PROHIBITS FOREIGN PRINCIPALS FROM ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE OR ANY INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE, EXCEPT A DE MINIMUS INDIRECT INTEREST.

BEFORE THE:

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DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

TIME: 3:00 PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

PLACE: State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

IN STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees,

My name is Asinate Taleni and I am a Native Hawaiian resident of Hawai'i Island.

I am testifying in strong support of bill SB2617 which prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest.

I will start this by sharing that I work for one of the largest short term vacation rental companies on the Big Island of Hawai'i. Born and raised in Hawai'i, I've watched as the real estate market has become increasingly dominated by foreign purchasers, driving prices to astronomical levels. This influx of outside investment has created a barrier for local residents like myself, making it nearly impossible to afford a home in my own hometown.

The impact of foreign purchasers goes beyond mere economics; it erodes the fabric of communities and threatens the cultural identity of Hawai'i. As the influx of outside investors continues, the very essence of what makes Hawai'i unique is at risk of being diluted and commodified. Just the other day, I overheard a new resident from Spain call our beloved Kailua-Kona - "Kona-fornia". The fire that grew within my chest from hearing this, burned and burned until it dissipated to tears. Hopeless. Defeated.

This is why the state must take action to ban foreign purchasers from dominating the real estate market. By implementing measures to prioritize local residents and ensure equitable access to housing, Hawai'i can safeguard its cultural heritage and preserve the sense of belonging for future generations.

Each day, my husband and I rise with determination. We do it not just for ourselves, but for our two-year old daughter, striving to give her the security of a home in this breathtaking land we call home. Yet, we witness a cruel irony unfold before our very eyes. The condos adjacent to ours, stand silent and empty for months on end. Their absentee owners reside comfortably in distant lands like Canada and Germany, while local families like ours grapple with the harsh reality of housing insecurity.

Other states enacted a foreign ownership law in the 2023 legislative session including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia. So the argument that such laws are 'unconstitutional' should be dismissed based on the fact that several other states have enacted similar laws.

For our daughter's sake, for the future of our beloved home, we cannot afford to remain silent. We must speak up, we must act, and we must reclaim the true essence of aloha that binds us all together as one 'ohana, one family, under the nurturing embrace of these sacred islands.

Mahalo,

Asinate Taleni

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:23:31 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kason Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Think about our keiki and our future. All this time our people been pushed aside allowing room for the foreigners to move forward and it's been like this for years (long overdue). This is the change that we need.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:23:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aikue Napoleon-Ahn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In efforts to improve the housing market for local people, I support SB2617.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:24:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bobbiejean Ponciano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617. No more selling our lands to outsiders!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:24:50 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Waimea Mckeague	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name. Waimea Mckeague and oppose this bill I fell like companies especially big corporations from different countries should not be able to buy land here especially if the people of this land can't even afford because they are running up the prices I want my kids to able to live here and stay here and even there kids to stay on this beautiful island we call home so yes i oppose that people and anyone not from here should not be able to buy land here

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:25:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuaola emmsley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

‘O au ‘O Kuaola Emmsley, nō Wailuku Maui mai au, mai. ka ‘Āina a ka ua kili‘o‘opū. I am fortunate enough to have mākua who own a house on a two acre property above 'Iao valley in Wailuku. We live in an agricultural neighborhood, it is required that a part of the land is used for farming. We have dry land lo'i, where we grow Kalo, we grow Lā‘ī as well as different vegetables and fruits. We are so very lucky to have the ability to provide for our neighbors and 'ohana. Unfortunately many properties in this neighborhood are not used for agriculture, they are foreigners who buy the property and use loopholes in the rules to rent out their massive houses as apartments or even airbnbs. I support this bill because I want to ensure that this won't continue to happen. That land being developed will not fall into the hands of foreign entities who use the ‘Āina as a commodity for their own gain. In order to return Hawaii's food sovereignty, Hawaiians must be returned to the ‘Āina. It is our responsibility to ensure there is ‘Āina left for us. We know this place, we know how to cultivate the land, feed our people, and protect our resources. But we've been priced out of paradise and forced to leave or become homeless with three jobs. We need to bring our people back. Hawaii isn't Hawaii without its culture, it's kanaka. No Hawaiians, no aloha.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:26:04 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karren Clarke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For the sake of our people, the kanaka maoli, who have suffered so much at the hands of the US government, this bill passing is a fundamental step in the direction of righting wrongs and giving us a chance to remain in our homelands. I strongly support SB2617.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:26:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaymin Bruhn-Nakihei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Keanu Bruhn Nakihei. I am 34 years old and I reside in the beautiful Windward side of Oahu. Growing up I have always seen my ohana struggling but always making ends meet. I knew we had very little but I always told my self to push through, now that I am a Father and Husband, I still struggle. Times are hard but with the grace and Love from GOD, we are able to make ends meet. We are balanced. Owning a home has always been the ULTIMATE GOAL for not only myself but my for my ohana and my children, and there children and so forth. I work hard 6 days a week to hopefully one day have the income and finance flow to be able to buy a home here in my HOME. Here in Hawaii. Us locals have always been out at the short end for a very long time, we work hard and we provide. With this bill, it allows us to have a chance. To have a fighting chance at reaching that ULTIMATE GOAL. To see our ohana generations have a place to call HOME. Please, I'm asking from the bottom of my heart. Give us HAWAIIANS a chance. Mahalo and God Bless

-Keanu Bruhn-Nakihei

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:26:28 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jencey Melemai-Watson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my firm support for the passage of Bill SB2617, which seeks to prohibit foreign ownership of real property in our state of Hawaii. As a concerned resident deeply invested in the preservation of our cultural heritage, sustainable development, and community well-being, I believe this bill represents a critical measure to safeguard our land for the benefit of current and future generations of Hawaiians.

Here are several compelling reasons why I support SB2617:

- 1. Preservation of Cultural Heritage:** Hawaii's land is not just a commodity; it is the foundation of our cultural identity and ancestral heritage. Allowing unrestricted foreign ownership of real property poses a significant threat to the integrity of our cultural landscape, potentially leading to the exploitation and commercialization of sacred sites and culturally significant areas. SB2617 will help preserve our cultural heritage by ensuring that our land remains under the stewardship of local residents who have a deep connection to and respect for our traditions and values.
- 2. Affordable Housing and Property Accessibility:** Foreign investment in Hawaii's real estate market has contributed to soaring property prices, making homeownership increasingly unattainable for many local residents. By restricting foreign ownership, SB2617 will help alleviate housing affordability pressures and ensure that our communities have access to affordable housing options. This measure is crucial for addressing the housing crisis and maintaining socioeconomic diversity in our neighborhoods.
- 3. Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Development:** Unchecked foreign investment in real estate often prioritizes short-term profits over long-term sustainability and environmental stewardship. SB2617 will empower local decision-makers to implement land use policies that prioritize environmental conservation, sustainable development practices, and the protection of our natural resources. By fostering responsible land management, this bill will help preserve Hawaii's fragile ecosystems and promote resilience in the face of climate change.
- 4. Support for Local Economy and Small Businesses:** Foreign-owned properties often operate as vacation rentals or luxury resorts, diverting revenue away from the local economy and undermining the viability of small businesses. SB2617 will encourage investments that benefit our communities directly, such as affordable housing

developments, locally-owned businesses, and sustainable agriculture initiatives. By promoting local economic empowerment, this bill will foster greater economic resilience and self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to support the passage of Bill SB2617 to protect Hawaii's land for the people of our state. By preserving our cultural heritage, promoting housing affordability, conserving our natural resources, supporting local economic development, and empowering our communities, SB2617 represents a vital step towards creating a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient future for Hawaii.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the well-being of our state. I trust that you will make the right decision in support of SB2617.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:28:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 P

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John James	Testifying for Halau Ku Mana	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a student who attends Halau Ku Mana, which is a Hawaiian public charter school that focuses on malama aina and embracing our Hawaiian culture. I reside in the ahupua'a of Ewa. My ohana are Kanaka Maoli. I advocate for Senate Bill 2617. I think this is very valid and our land shall be restricted to mainly Hawaiians. The damage and the destruction the foreigners have caused to our land are devastating. Foreigner investment should not be tolerated. Another reason I advocate for this bill is because homelessness has gotten out of hand, and purchasing aina should be prohibited to foreigners.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:29:20 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Pasion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

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Aloha,

My name is Maya Ploi Blasi I was born and raised in Hana, on the east side of Maui. I am a non-native Hawaiian coming to you as someone who although may not have the indigenous blood running through my veins, has the morals and cultural understanding of these islands and their people. I currently attend the University of Colorado where I am receiving my bachelor's in international studies and am aiming to direct my focus to underserved communities, much like Hawai'i.

Since being acquired by the United States, the Hawaiian Islands have taken a hit physically, economically, and populationally. And it seems the United States' misunderstanding regarding Hawai'i and the priorities of preserving 'aina and land are not a priority in respecting the religious and native beliefs, and one that should be carefully reconsidered. Not simply to continue the perpetuation of a dying culture and people, but to increase sustainability across the state and promote green goals set by executive powers.

The ability for Hawaiians to live on Hawaiian land is becoming nearly impossible through the enormous prices for property, the inflation amongst produced goods, and the unrealistic proportions between constituent income ability and the actual cost to live. People misunderstand that Hawai'i is not just a destination, and while we support the tourism industry and allow so openly for visitors, we are still mourning the loss of sacred lands and abuse to culturally valued resources, as a result of the mismanagement and displacement of Hawaiian land, and the overtaking industry sectors occupying pre-existing open acreage. With understanding of global perspective and the vast differences amongst various cultures, it's vital to note that Hawaiians are an indigenous group with a unique value of culture and the traditions that culture upholds. By allowing for proper allocation of indigenous land to indigenous hands, the potential for cultural survival is still high and will support the clause of opening up resources and necessary supplies for Hawaiians to thrive. Keeping land away from outside foreign owners increases connectivity between 'aina to Kanaka (or land to man) and will allow for Hawaii constituents to contribute in conversations regarding future plans. With the increase of foreign ownership, developments and industrialization have only increased, fuelling both concerns for climate change as well as increasing the lack of state and government accountability in solving issues of homelessness and unemployment. By passing this bill and removing foreign opportunities to acquire Hawaiian land, it will encourage the people of Hawai'i and further law-makers to establish housing plans, and increase opportunities for low-represented and underserved areas. The potential to maintain an economic contribution, while perpetuating the already existing, yet dying, culture, is so great and could impact all parties involved in a positive way. Rather than allowing private foreign ownership investments, which are not contributing to the taxes and benefits of the overall voting constituents, and even more, taking it away. Consider chances to maintain sustainable practices as an addition to green initiatives across the U.S, and preserve the areas of undeveloped land. Let's open the door to the idea that we allocate this land and these areas to members of this ethnicity and culture. Let's not forget that it's outside foreign seat holders, making the decision on someone else's generational and indigenous rights. As well as their future. Thank you and Mahalo for your time.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:29:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Numea Soren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel like it's unfair that the people of Hawaii who work hard continuously every day to make a difference, a change to our aina and to secure the land that their ancestors, their ohana, had made to protect and help the people of Hawaii be taken away by foreigners. We have our own people (like me) leaving the islands to support our own ohana and to try to "keep Hawaiian lands, in Hawaiian hands" as the saying goes. Our past generations have built and thrived for centuries to give us the opportunity to not only provide but also progress the structure and living situations of the people of Hawaii. Having forgeiners come in and take land to rent out properties to people coming from the mainland limits the living of the people of Hawaii who work hard just to try and keep the land that their ohana has tried so hard to keep in their family. They just come and go, they don't give they just take... taking the opportunity for our future keikis to grow up and live in Hawaii, the struggle is already hard enough but having foreigners take land and most likely make the cost of anything that they own more expensive. It's just ridiculous... If we keep having forgeiners and allowing them to come into Hawaii and take land away, it would be devastating to see the out come of how much Hawaiians would have to leave and be pushed out of Hawaii just because of this reason. I strongly feel like we should stop allowing forgeiners to take land when they don't malama the aina, we, our people of Hawaii worked to hard for this to have it taken away. Mahalo for you're time and consideration. Aloha.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:29:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah Gelacio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The argument of this is "unconstitutional" is not an argument, its merely an excuse for foreign investors to use to say they want the American Dream, but they never commit to it. How is this Bill unconstitutional? In the very beginning of the constitution it says "We the People of the UNITED STATES", not of Japan, not of China, not of any other country except the United States. This Bill doesn't prevent other citizens of the United States to purchase land in Hawai'i, just FOREIGNERS. We as apart of the United States need to start taking care of our own culture and our own people so we are strong enough to help others. If this is not passed then how are we encouraging US Citizens to stay in the US, more so people of Hawai'i to stay in Hawai'i? A strong culture whether American or Hawaiian starts with the people. Take care the people, the people will take care of you.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:30:16 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
piilani schneider	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e kakou,

Hawaii, the state of Aloha, will no longer be an Aloha state when our own people are priced out of paradise. This bill will kokua this from happening. I am strongly in favor of blocking foreigners from buying in Hawaii to not only secure our 'āina, and also to protect our people. Mahalo piha for your hearts to serve. Your time is appreciated.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:30:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fred Matayoshi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please Kokua and help our local community by allowing this bill to pass, giving our Hawaiian children the opportunity to stay in Hawaii. Our precious Lands should not be sold to non citizens of our country. It's difficult enough for us to survive with citizens in our country purchasing land here in Hawaii. My mother was born and raised on Niihau and both my wife's parents are Hawaiian. Our children are struggling just to pay rent and often speak about moving away to afford a living. This Bill is not a final solution for the housing and land situation, but it will be a step forward to helping us find a better way to help our keiki live here in our home state and one day possibly have the opportunity to acquire their own land here in Hawaii nei. Mahalo

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:31:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Sasan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Over the course of just a few short decadess I have witnessed Hawai'i change tremendously. It went from a place on earth that was not only beautiful but somewhere we could call home to an over-run, over-populated, over developed state. The dependence on tourism has reached a point where not only do we invite these foreigners to come and play on our sandy beaches but we also have allowed these very people to buy up so much of our very limited land. We live on islands surrounded by oceans that are wonderful and vast but also limits the fact that we can only build up rather than out for our people. I cannot tell you how many local/hawaiian families I have witnessed pick up and leave the state simply because it was no long feasible to live here. The cost of living is already so tremendous and if you are a single income household, you are now deemed poverty level if you do not make more than \$84,000 a year. We have reached a place in our lives that the women can no longer stay home and take care of their children simply because one income in this state is no longer able to suffice to pay the mortgage, put food on the table and provide a decent life for your families. We look around and we see these massive houses being built. "monster homes" if you may and none of these monster homes are owned by the locals. Only foreign investors can buy a million dollar house to knock it down and rebuild these giant homes that do affect the surrounding homes with the appreciation of taxes incur. We need to stop allowing people who do not even reside here to buy up all the land leaving locals with nothing. The pockets of some of these crooked politicians are very deep and we keep wasting money on silly unnecessary mistakes that we allow these people to do with our money! The selling of homes to these foreign billionaires not only lessens the amount of inventory we have to offer the locals but it also drives up the prices on already expensive homes leaving the locals without a chance to even bid on these houses for a fair a decent price. Not being able to provide affordable housing to the locals has already been a problem for decades and yet we keep selling to people who could care less about our aina all because of greed. Stop this nonsense and help to get the lands of Hawaii back into the hands of the people who drive a deep connection with the kuleana of the aina before Hawaii is no longer Hawaii anymore because there wont be a single Hawaiian left.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:31:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Aurio	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am Alika Aurio, a student at Halau Ku Mana, located in Makiki Valley. I am also a Kanaka who is from Kapolei/Ewa, but I now reside in Pauoa Valley. Where I am from I don't see many Native Hawaiian Kanaka anymore. Recently there was a lot of construction and in the process, a lot of non-Hawaiian people have moved there. Before Kapolei and Ewa were one of the places that didn't have ANY Americans. In the aina where I live now, there are a lot of Hawaiian people but there are still a lot of non-Hawaiian people. But I think that the people who live there now are good people and they do help the aina and they live there, not like some people who only buy houses for vacation.

I think that this is a great bill. But I think that it will affect a lot of families. I think this is a good bill because many people buy houses In Hawai'i and do not even live there. Some people from America buy houses off the internet and only come down from vacation. But a way that this bill can affect the people is that there are people who buy houses from America, actually move down here, and live here. There are people who do live here and people who buy houses to have a vacation house.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:31:45 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, 'O Nanea ko'u inoa, No Aiea mai au. Hello, my name is Nanea and I am from Aiea. I want to say that I agree with this bill. I think it is important to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands.

Prices have been rising for basic needs, especially for houses, increasing homelessness here. Foreigners offering thousands to millions of dollars just for a piece of land makes things a lot harder for us.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:32:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think that this is a positive step in the right direction for native Hawaiians. As a young Hawaiian individual, one of the most stressful thoughts to process, is how close to impossible it would be for my family and I to secure a home at home. Not to be "priced out of paradise", but to be forced out of ancestral land for it to be falsely owned by the highest bidder. The officials of the "state" have neglected the Hawaiians/Locals for too long. Allowing people to come in with billion or millions, and a heart full of greed. Hopefully this bill will give us a fighting chance to occupy our homelands without being needing to become a millionaire (which is close to impossible working a normal job in todays society). The town that I live in was once a sugar cane plantation that housed plantation workers in the earlier 1900s. In the early 2000s it was a lovely "small town" neighborhood. Everyone knew each other, and the community consisted of locals. Nowadays, in 2024, lots of Hawaiians or people I once knew are no longer able to afford living in the neighborhood we grew up in. A small 3 bedroom with 1 bath sales for \$800,000-\$1,000,000+. My current rent for a room in a 4bedroom shared house \$1400. Maybe this bill could help bring back the old ways of rentals as well. One other huge problem for natives that work regular 9-5s like me.

I am for this bill and I hope that it gets passed! FOR THE SAKE OF THE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE AND ALL THAT LOVE HAWAIIAN CULTURE!
WE ARE NOT FINISHED YET! MAY WE BE ABLE TO MAKE A COME BACK, LET IT BE! MAHALO AWA!

Noah St.laurent

Kilauea, Kaua'i

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:33:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadine Keaulii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is vital to the hawaiian people. Our land should not be available to the highest bidder. The hawaiian people have suffered enough and our land should be preserved for its people.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:33:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Akana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I whole heartedly support this bill. I was born and raised here and can't afford to own a home- I have to rent. I worry for my children and them being able to afford living here as well.

In December 2023, [Ka Wai Ola](#) had an article which reported that the 2020 Census results showed that 53% of Native Hawaiians now live on the mainland. You wonder how much bigger the percentage is when you add those who were born and raised in Hawaii. Our Hawaii is becoming unrecognizable! We need to do more to keep our people here.

The condos popping all over town are a visual representation of where the priorities.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:33:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Frederick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. The time is now to put the people of Hawaii first. It is that simple and does not require highfalutin words to further describe what the obvious is.

The AG's argument is mute and does not apply. Period.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:34:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donnie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian, I had to go to college to learn about my culture as it was never passed down to me due to colonialism and the erasure of our culture. Colonialism has caused many socio-economic issues that have affected those around me and even myself. Many of my family members are unable to afford to live here in Hawai'i which is causing them to be displaced. The alternatives that have been created to "help" Native Hawaiians, have only created more issues and have caused a division amongst the Native Hawaiians community such as the Hawaiian Homes Commission act with the blood quantum requirement. This has caused many Native Hawaiians to suffer from poverty, homelessness, and other contemporary issues.

All Native Hawaiians should be the priority race and THE ONLY RACE to access and own land here in Hawai'i. This law would help the Native Hawaiian community tremendously by giving us a chance to thrive in our home rather than be displaced out of our home.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:34:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LLAYNE K KAUI	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:34:39 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammy Cabacungan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Tammy Cabacungan, I am a property manager for affordable apartments on Kauai.

I do not represent my company, but I do want to say that I am against the sale of real estate property throughout the state Hawaii. Many of our local families are having to move away because they are being priced out of paradise. Here on Kauai, there were many homes that were sold during covid, sight unseen! One of houses sat vacant for nearly 2 years, while our local families were in desperate need of a place to live. The more we sell our Hawaii properties, the new owners have made the rent so high that local families can't afford to rent it, the rental amounts are outrageous! Or they leave it vacant and come back twice a year or let their friends and family use for vacation. I'd like to say, that I lived in Abu Dhabi, UAE for 2 short years, I was quite impressed with their real estate laws. I worked for Crompton Partners Estate Agents and leased apartments to XPatriots moving into the country for work. The foreigners were NOT allowed to buy real property. They were only allowed to lease condos. If they wanted to buy a condo, they could do it only in a certain area only. UAE is not for sale. Hawaii should be the same. They could only buy the unit but not the land it sat on, and when they moved out of the country - they had to sell back the unit to the real estate company. We should have a similar law. Our Aina, Our Homes are being sold out from under us. Hawaii will never be the same. We are unique and we are letting so many foreigners purchase our lands. Look at Mark Zuckerberg! He bought so much property on the shore and God only knows where else, he has made his property a like a vacation resort for VIPs. Block out access to beaches, locals can't go and access beach or fishing spots because of the trespassing signs that are put up. We need to stop selling our land and start investing in the people of Hawaii and help them to keep their roots, the history of their ancestors. On Kauai, so many areas have been bought by foreigners and they lock us out. I used to be able to go to beaches, learn how to drive on the dirt roads, play in the reservoirs etc etc, my own kids and grandkids will never know the old days that I had growing up on the island. Too much development. Too many people coming and buying the houses and leaving them empty. Locals are moving away to be able to afford living. Its so sad. I hope that you will stop the sale of our lands and homes in Hawaii and live Pono! Being an Affordable Property Manager for 10 years, I know the need and see the lack. Please stop selling to foreigners!

Thank you,

Tammy Cabacungan

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:35:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Umialiloa Dunn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am from the public charter school of Halau Ku Mana in the ili aina of Makiki. My school focuses on the education of Native Hawaiian students and has taught us the importance of knowing who you are and where you came from. I have recently been browsing around bills that support native Hawaiians and stumbled upon SB2617. I wanted to submit testimony to possibly pass this as a law.

I support this bill because we need more land for Hawaiian homesteads. Also, we need more space for Lahaina residents. Homelessness is also a big problem throughout Hawaii. Most of the population of homeless people are the Native people of this land, which is wrong. While Hawaiians live in poverty on the streets people who can afford land push Native Hawaiians out. Overall, Hawaiians have been fighting for land for many years so I feel that we should get the recognition, rights, and land we deserve.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:35:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela H	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill SB2617 to not let foreigners buy land in the state of Hawaii

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:35:35 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealohalani James	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

'O Kealohalani James ko'u inoa. No Ewa Beach mai au. He umikumaha o'u makahiki. My name is Kealohalani James. I'm from Ewa Beach. I am fourteen years old. I am a haumana at Halau Ku Mana New Century Public Charter School, and I advocate for SB2617. As a Hawaiian, watching my island become flooded with tourism, inflation, and homeless kanaka, it is truly heartbreaking when I realize that foreign people are claiming our land. It is difficult enough for most Hawaiians to live comfortably without worrying about prices to get by in life. I feel that we should leave whatever land that isn't taken care of by our people, for our people. In that matter, we SHOULD utilize our land in benefit for Hawaiians. Most, if not all foreign land owners truly do not care if our people are trying their best to survive in this modern world. This is a huge issue not only for Hawaiians, but for other indigenous people. Bills similar to SB2617 should be passed as a law, in order for our people to thrive.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:35:58 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelani B	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii should be left for Hawaiians. Too many foreigners come to buy land and rent out or come to buy land and build for tourist. Many lands have been over used, desecrated and harmed as well as ancestral burial grounds for hotels, rentals and malls. This should have not happened in the first place. Hawaiians should have say for Hawaii! Voting doesn't make sense, we're last to the table , running for office doesn't make sense- we always get pushed out by foreigners. Open your eyes!!!! We need this bill to pass so we Hawaiians can live in Hawaii! Where we belong.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:36:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chasity Kekahuna-Kalamau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill!!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:36:53 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaven Holbron Holi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I whole heartedly support this bill because I am one of those Hawaiians forced out of living in Hawai'i where I was born and raised. I want my children and family members to be able to keep the residence they live in and continue to live where we belong. I am sick and tired of seeing foreigners buying up all the land and property while we Hawaiians are forced out. The foreigners take over land that should rightfully belong to the people whos genealogy and family line come from Hawai'i. As more Hawaiians are forced out so goes our culture and Aloha spirit and for me that needs to stop. I support this bill to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands!

LATE LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:36:57 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in agreement with Brenton Awa on SB2617. Personally, half of my family have already moved to another state due to the lack of housing available for a fair price. My neighbor just sold her house and of course our new neighbors are from Colorado. I am not opposed to having out of state neighbors, however there needs to be something in place that puts true Hawai'i residents first. Preference should be given to us first. I am personally planning on moving myself and my family to another state by the end of the year. We have given up hope on ever owning a home in the state we were born and raised in. It is truly unfortunate and heartbreaking that we are having to spread our family across other states because none of us can afford to live in our home. As Native Hawaiians, we should be able to stay here as long as we want but with the current state of the economy, that's just not possible. Please vote in favor of the people of Hawai'i.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:38:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Thunen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For far too long, Hawaii has been crippled by foreign influence and landowning. Wealthy foreigners have driven up the property values in Hawaii, causing a homelessness crisis among native Hawaiians. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders experience one of the highest rates of houselessness of any ethnic group (source:<https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness/>). SB2617 is an essential step in rectifying the native Hawaiian homelessness crisis. Please give your utmost attention to this bill.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:38:31 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Keomaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of passing this bill. As a 22 year old native Hawaiian woman I believe that we as native Hawaiians should be the ones who are given priority when buying land. We work hard to make a living in this economy only to be pushed to the back burner when haoles come in with all their money and decide they want to buy themselves a house in "paradise". Why shouldn't Hawaiian be the first ones considered when purchasing land? The answer to that question is money. When is the government of Hawaii going to start prioritizing it's native people over money? Passing this bill will be a definite step in the right direction.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:38:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nowelo Cruz	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a student at Halau Ku Mana Charter School in Makiki. I currently live in Papakōlea.

My ‘ohana is kanaka and my ‘ohana has been living here since before the landing of Captain Cook. We have moved away and moved back a few times, but our roots are here. I do have close foreign relatives from places as far as Great Britain who have also lived here for a while.

I do support the bill but I do think that some changes could be made to it. If you are foreign but are a part of a Hawaiian family then you may stay, but if not, then the land must be given to someone of Hawaiian blood. The reason I say this is because Hawaiians have been losing their homes and land due to construction. For example, the Lahaina fire just happened, and foreign construction companies are already seeing opportunities to build hotels and tourist attractions.

-Mahalo

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:39:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Awai-Dakroub	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Support for SB2617 - Protecting Hawai'i's Residents and Economy

Aloha,

My name is Wendy Awai-Dakroub, and I am a native Hawaiian who has been on the DHHL list for over 20 years. I write to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2617, which I believe is a critical step towards addressing the housing crisis that has plagued Hawai'i for far too long.

As a lifelong resident of Hawai'i, having spent all 55 years of my life in these beautiful islands, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by working-class families like mine in achieving homeownership. Despite both my husband and I working full-time jobs and contributing to a double-income household, we have struggled to afford suitable housing for our family of four. The rising cost of living in Hawai'i has forced us to work multiple jobs just to make ends meet, making the dream of owning a home feel almost unattainable.

One of the key factors contributing to this unaffordability is the current housing market, which does not align with the average wages of Hawai'i residents. The presence of foreign entities continually outbidding local residents for real estate has exacerbated this problem. It is disheartening to see our fellow Hawaiians pushed to the sidelines, unable to compete with these deep-pocketed investors.

The State of Hawai'i has a moral obligation to prioritize the well-being of its residents, and more importantly to Kanaka Maoli, who are native to this land which, sadly, has not been the case. The historical injustices that began on January 17, 1893, continue to impact our community today. We have witnessed the prioritization of foreign interests in various sectors of Hawai'i's economy, often at the expense of our own residents. The burden of these decisions falls heavily on our shoulders, with exorbitant taxes and fees, such as the \$500 per year car registration, further squeezing our already stretched budgets.

Senate Bill 2617 offers a promising solution to address this issue. By restricting foreign ownership of real estate in Hawai'i, we can level the playing field and create a more competitive housing market for local residents. This policy aligns with practices seen in many other countries and states, aimed at protecting the interests of their own citizens.

Allowing foreigners to monopolize and exploit Hawai'i's land and resources for profit has contributed to an economic crisis that local families have to endure. It is time for Hawai'i to prioritize its own people over profit, ensuring that the 'āina remains in the hands of those who call these islands home.

Passing SB2617 is not just a matter of economic policy; it is a moral imperative. It is a step towards a more equitable future for Hawai'i, where our residents can thrive, and our economy can flourish without compromising the cultural and environmental integrity of our beloved state.

Please support SB2617 and help put an end to the exploitation of Hawai'i's 'āina. Let us work together to build a brighter future for our fellow Hawaiians and ensure that the State of Hawai'i truly represents the interests of its people.

Mahalo nui loa for your dedication to our community and your consideration of this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Wendy

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:39:20 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie checknita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill preventing foreigners from purchasing land in Hawaii. The cost of living, along with the disproportionate wages being paid is already pushing local residents out of their home state. Allowing foreigners to come and snatch up limited housing, using these spaces for vacation rentals or allowing them to sit empty for months at a time, only worsens this already dire situation we face.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:39:42 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Gonsalves	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Homes should not be sold to foreigners ! Our people of Hawaii descendants are struggling to stay in our land due to the home prices being driven up because of foreigners purchasing . At the same time the culture is being stripped away . Please pass this bill for our future & our culture!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:39:45
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chevis K. Domingo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Chevis K. Domingo. I am 14 years old, and i was born and raised on the island of Oahu. As a student of Halau Ku Mana New Century Public Charter School, I agree and support Bill SB2617. I believe that this bill could help lots of Native people to have homes and land. I think this law would help many people in Hawaii, and can help people that are homeless to get a home. In my opinion I think this would be an amazing, great, and very helpful law.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:39:50 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RICHARD HOLIBAUGH	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning, and thank you for reading my testimony concerning support for SB2617. According to the Congressional Research Service, an authoritative, confidential, objective, and non-partisan agency, "State and federal lawmakers have expressed interest in legislative options to address the potential national security and economic implications of foreign ownership of U.S. land. During the first six months of 2023, at least 15 states enacted legislation regulating foreign ownership of real property". If enacted, there will most certainly be challenges to this law. We should embrace the challenge. As I read SB2617, those foreign principals who currently own real property in the state of Hawaii, shall be permitted to retain ownership with registration with the Attorney General. I urge you to support this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:40:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Miyamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. May the lands of Hawaii stay in the hands of our people. Aloha

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:41:02 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Bascar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support so the Kanaka Maoli has a chance to stay home as they should.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:41:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanel Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a k̄anaka, I am overwhelmed with hope when I see bills like SB2617. Please help my family and the many other generational local families stay in our home. We are What makes this place so special.

Mahalo,

Chanel Souza

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:42:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kodie Solis-Kalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT this bill. As a native Hawaiian that was born and raised here I have seen what used to be family homes gone now being used as summer vacation homes. As my family grows and I try to purchase a home I am already having a hard time finding something I can afford that my daughter deserves to be raised in. This bill will help aid this housing crisis we're in and give a chance for our keiki to create a home for themselves. Mahalo.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:42:15 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:42:26 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cori Morre	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is quickly turning into an unrecognizable place that we once knew and loved. Growing up in Kaneohe I have always wanted my children to experience growing up there as I have nothing but fond memories. Today, I consider moving so that my kids will have a better opportunity to buy a home and do better without living paycheck to paycheck like many of us. My parents who are seniors pay nearly 3k for rent in Ewa Beach due to the rising cost everywhere. It is sad to see our elders and ppl I've grown up with struggle to make ends meet bc their rent cost is almost a whole month of work. Allow the locals to be able to buy and afford their homes again. You are losing the ppl who make Hawai'i beautiful due to cost of living. We have nothing. Give our children a chance to thrive and continue to have hope in staying here.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:42:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rise' Tapati	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Real estate property is so limited in Hawaii. With each generation comes a higher demand for local people to find homes/property that they can buy so that they and their families can continue to live in Hawaii. By allowing foreign entities to purchase real property in Hawaii, local people are commonly Outbid, making it impossible for residents to be able to purchase the small inventory of real property for sale in Hawaii. The results of this is Hawaii residents having to move to the US continent to find places that they can afford to buy and raise their families. Meanwhile, people that don't even live in Hawaii are the ones that are able to purchase the real estate here, and either live here themselves, or rent out their properties, legally or illegally. Why should local residence be pushed out? State residence should absolutely be the only ones able to purchase land in Hawaii. We are tiny islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. We are not a continent where we are able to expand outward. I think of my children, and my children's children, and their children, and so forth. I would like my children to have the choice of whether or not they want to live in Hawaii, rather than feeling forced off the islands because foreign investors are purchasing and out bidding on all of the remaining real estate properties available. I have family that have moved to the continental US that dream of living in Hawaii again, but they cannot, because they are being outbid by hundreds of thousands of dollars by people that don't even live in the country. Make it so that local people can continue to live in Hawaii. Make it so that residents don't feel forced out of the state. Make it so that my children and your children and all of our children have a choice to live here rather than being forced off the islands to buy a home.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:43:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian-Jacob Keaunui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Welina me ke aloha,

I and my family are in full support of this bill. Too many Hawaiians have been driven out of Hawaii because foreigners/ foreign interests come to Hawaii purchasing massive amounts of property. It's time for Hawaii to take a stand. Let's do our part in ensuring that Hawaii people come first when it comes to home/ property ownership.

Mahalo nui,

Ian-Jacob U. Keaunui

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:44:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawailele Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a student at Halau Ku Mana is a Public Charter School in Makiki valley. I also live in Papakolea on the homestead so I am fortunate to live in Papakolea but some Kanaka (Hawaiians) are living on the streets because they can't find a house and purchase a house then had to move away.

I advocate for SB2617 because it gives Kanaka a chance at buying a house and land. Hawaiian people had to move away because they not being able to find or buy a house so they had to move away to the USA and more foreign people come and buy land or a house, and turn it into an apartment or a big house. Then inflation makes it so Kanaka can't buy aina due to low income and foreigners having more money.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:44:51 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaika K Landford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I say no to foreigners renting or buying in Hawaii.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:45:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredee strong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is honiala and I am a Hawaiian that believes that bill SB2617 will benefit the locals and native people to afford to live where America has illegally taken our land. Forcing us to find homes else where. Tourist can still come but we need the housing for Hawaiians that are on the street and can't afford because mainlanders are buying it all out making the price for housing even higher.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:46:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Daddario	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2617 for the future of our local and Kanaka Maoli. There is no Hawai'i without Hawaiians and we are being pushed out at extreme lengths at the hands of foreigners buying up all our land. No more. Stop the corruption and work for the people and not against us.

LATE
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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:47:06 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Abbey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a local girl born and raised in Kāne'ohe-Kahaluu, I'm proud to be where I'm from. As a mother, I am raising my child in the same town as I grew up but as a renter & hopefully a homeowner soon. As a small business owner, I understand the importance of where our money goes in Hawaii. We pay so much taxes on everything, it's crazy. Now our land is being taken advantage of because our state is enabling our land to be colonized in modern day. We need more transparency. Look at the Philippines, they do not allow foreigners to purchase land in their country. And they are SO HUGE. Hawai'i is SO SMALL. It doesn't make any sense why we are allowing our land to be consumed by foreigners. We have no room.

I am in support of this bill to not allow foreigners purchasing land in ALL of Hawai'i. Hawai'i will not be Hawai'i if the people who bring the aloha can't live here due to the interests of high-paying outsourced buyers. ESPECIALLY, foreign buyers who aren't residing in the homes they purchased and are capitalizing on it. It doesn't make any sense other than the govt racking up some \$\$\$ for themselves to get raises. So hewa.

Kāne'ohe is a highly desired area to live; 50% because of the beautiful scenery and ocean we thrive & live-off in. The other 50% are the people, who are rooted here for generations, who are the reason why it is highly desired. We our reviving old Hawai'i to become our today. You allow foreigners to buy land in Hawai'i, it will slowly take that away due to the people who are apart of sustaining old Hawai'i, can't afford it anymore. Allowing foreign buyers to own Hawaiian land or land in general in Hawai'i, will be detrimental to our culture and way of life. The people are Hawai'i. You remove the people, Hawai'i will be fake and it'll be the govt's fault for so much segregation & mistrust growing between the people and the leaders of Hawaii.

Hawai'i is expensive, we understand that, but please give the people, from Hawai'i, a chance to raise & stay in Hawai'i forever. We are priced out of paradise and this ISN'T FAIR.

Mahalo nui for reading.

Alana Abbey

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:47:17 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it gives a chance for Us native Hawaiians and locals to purchase land and property without getting priced out. People that have grown up in Hawaii know our way of life and the true meaning of Aloha! Living in poverty only leads to higher crime in our Community! People should look forward to trying to purchase a house and raise a family in the community they grew up in! As a native Hawaiian we need priority because this is our home, land ownership is a western concept pushed on us when the great mahele happened. we were ignorant at that time, and now more then ever we must fight to stay native and be able to live in hawaii. Foreigners do nothing to help Hawaii but only push their Tradition on us When they should expect ours! Aloha

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:47:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Villa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is William Villa and I was born and raised on Oahu. I am retired but I have 3 son's, currently 16 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. I am in support of this bill SB2617 to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State of Hawaii. We have a finite land mass in Hawaii and our own people can not afford to purchase land in their own home state. Part of the problem is attributed to what this bill addresses. You will have received evidence of this statement so no need to reiterate that point. My main concern is that we need to leave Hawaii lands available so that our children, grand and great grandchildren can own a piece of home. We need to do what we can to help them first. Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Aina i ka Pono. The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness. It is our people who are the life of the land and can perpetuate it. Our current and future generations need protection so that they at least can get an opportunity. Mahalo for your consideration. William Villa

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:49:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celena	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have seen the drastic changes throughout our ‘āina and the desecration of our resources. We need this bill in order for Hawai‘i and other kānaka maoli to survive! More than half of the kānaka maoli population reside in the continental U.S. due to unaffordable housing and the high cost of living. We no longer can afford to survive here due to foreigners and other people increasing the prices here. We need to retain the kānaka here and strengthen our communities instead of being bought out and displaced.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:50:10 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawehi Mahi-Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Kawehi Mahi-Roberts, strongly support this bill as a Kanaka Maoli no ka Lāhui o Hawai‘i.

It has been far too long that we have allowed these haole to take our lands meant for our people, and use it for their selfish gains while oppressing us. Even within the last few months alone, we have seen an influx of foreigners move to our lands. I am born and raised Moku o Keawe mai ka ‘āina o Hilo a me Puna, and it disgusts me to no ends to see haole cluttering my shores, stores, and lands here. This is something that has gone on for too long with no proper management, and with this bill in place, we can finally focus on putting our Kanaka first, and getting them (rightfully so) on *OUR* ‘āina. We must also take into account the wellbeing and needs of our generational ‘ohana from the plantation times as well. Do they not deserve the right to have ‘āina and live where their ‘ohana put downroots too? We should uplift these families and stress an importance on them as well. Our Pasifika are also ‘ohana as well and *DESERVE* to stay in our home we call the Pasific. These three groups I mentioned in my letter of support should be honored and considered when discussing the worn out argument of "should foreigners be allowed to buy land in Hawai‘i?" And to answer this question, my pane is ‘A‘OLE LOA. Put the Kanaka Maoli, generational ‘ohana, and Pasifika first and foremost, always.

Mahalo piha, Kawehi

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:50:42 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tane Nikora	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and any bill that supports action against Foreigners buying up Hawaiian Land. This is how it is in many other countries. Foreigners should not be allowed to buy up our land. They drive up home and land prices and make it difficult for Hawaiians to compete with rising costs. This is an important step in keeping Hawaiians in Hawaii. They all move to the mainland because they are literally priced out of Paradise. When all the Hawaiians are gone, will this still be Hawaii? Or just a playground for the wealthy? Our Aina is our lifeblood.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:51:03 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth J. Rago	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the Ko'olauloa community for 20 years, I support this bill.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:51:23 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Enos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The downfall of every civilization comes, not from the moral corruption of the common man, but rather from the moral complacency of common men in high places.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:51:28 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Savannah Severns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting a testimony in support of this bill. As generations go on, like many other families from Hawai'i, more and more of my family are financially forced to move away from home. I hope we can take this step for all the families that make up our community, to give us a glimpse of hope that we can afford to raise future generations on the land that raised us. Thank you for your consideration

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:51:45 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabriel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Locals need more housing opportunities

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:52:54 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Faber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill one percent. Foreigners or even out of state are buying property left and right. Every person that moves here and buys a house here means,one person or a family born and raised moving out. Not too many generational family's are still around. Let's keep Hawaii people in Hawaii hands.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:53:31 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
June Pearl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have lived here for 54 years. My mother and I were fortunate to buy our homes through a low income housing project. She bought her home in 1971 and I in 1984. Today, homes are too expensive for my children to buy their own home. Two of my children moved to the mainland and bought their homes. My remaining four children live here, two are paying rent, one lives at home with me and one chooses to be houseless because he doesn't want to pay the ridiculous rent landlords are charging. Let's look what's happening in my little town of Kahuku. Continental Pacific has cleared out generations of families that have lived here since our plantation days. Currently they are selling a plantation home that was built in 1919 for \$899,000. The new homes they are building starts at \$850,000 and up, we are a low income community. Apparently these homes are not being built with the intention to help the local families here in our community. This is one example, I know of. There are many more. As I drive down the highway and see all these beautiful beach homes, it's saddens me that none of these homes are owned by local people. We need to stop foreign purchases of our land. We need to keep our land in the hands of the people that live here, that grew up here, and for our future generations. We need to make it affordable for our children, our grandchildren and our great grandchildren to be able to live here in Hawaii. Do what is right.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:54:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Balbarino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Hawaii, I've witnessed firsthand the challenges posed by the soaring housing prices and limited availability of land. It has become a significant concern. With Hawaii heavily reliant on tourism for its economy, it's crucial to have a balance between economic growth and ensuring there is sufficient land for the local population and future generations. The influx of foreign buyers has further exacerbated the issues, making it increasingly challenging for residents to afford homes in their own paradise. It's imperative that we prioritize the needs of our community, considering sustainable solutions that safeguard our precious land for the people of Hawaii and those yet to come. We need to protect our land and preserve the unique culture and heritage of Hawaii for generations to come.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:54:51 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darren Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, this bill is long overdue. As you all are aware if you haven't bought a house pre-covid as a native/kama'aina/local, you are out of luck getting one at a decent and fair price. I have been trying to buy a house but having to bid 50-100k over asking makes it unobtainable. I tried to bid on a house in Kane'ohe, there were over 200 viewers that showed up to the open house. House was in bad shape (moldy carpet, termite damage) and the asking was 850k. It ended up selling for just over a \$1M! Who would've thought growing up that houses on O'ahu will eventually be \$1M homes. You need two six figure incomes to support a mortgage payment like that. There needs to be at the very least a temporary hold on all outside buyers to give locals a chance to stay here. Because if we have to leave, we take the Aloha spirit with us too. That's something foreign buyers and even buyers from the continental US cannot replace.

In closing please move bill SB2617 forward.

Mahalo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:55:24 A
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:0

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystal-Anne K Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I as a person of Hawaiian ancestry born and raised in Hawaii who sees the struggles of families such as mine, I support this bill. Too long this bill has been needed for Hawaii born families to stay in our homelands and not be bought out by any foreigners outside of the Hawaiian island chain.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:55:45 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Kamali'iwahine Gonzales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because as a native born we should have a better chance at real property. It is unfair to us that foreigners can buy real property which makes it harder for us to buy. Thank you for your time.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:56:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sarah Stone. I was born and raised on Oahu in Ka'a'awa. My parents were both born and raised in Kailua & my grandmother is was the 5th generation of her Portuguese family to be born and raised in Hawaii. Hawaii is our home.

I recently relocated to Oregon due to the high cost of living in Hawaii and my inability to purchase a home in Hawaii as a single mother. My children are both Native Hawaiian and will grow up on the mainland due to the housing crisis in Hawaii.

my heart was broken when I made the decision to relocate. Like many who were born and raised in Hawaii and have generational ties to Hawaii the daily struggles of the cost of living and paying outrageous rent made it impossible for

my family of three to survive.

Hawaii should never be a millionaires playground, which is what it is turning into. You cannot buy a home for under \$1 million. It is absolutely disgusting that foreigners are able to buy up real estate as investments while displacing the people of Hawaii. There are Native Hawaiians that are rising their children on the beach because of the housing shortage and cost. It's simply greed on so many levels.

This law will help regulate housing in Hawaii. It will help Native Hawaiians who have every right to the land own homes and grow roots. It will allow the younger generation to be able to reside in Hawaii and contribute to the economy, culture, and future of the islands.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:56:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too many locals getting pushed out of Hawaii due to foreigners buying homes and land and renting or reselling at ridiculous prices ...

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:57:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sommer Kauakahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. Hawaii is composed of islands with limited land and resources. We need to take care of those born and raised here and those who've called this home for generations first before selling out to those who didn't even live here or only wanting to buy land to make a profit.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:58:22 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Starlet Ho'opai-Kekiwi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

My name is Starlet Ho'opai-Kekiwi and I am in support of this bill.

It's been long overdue for a solution to try to keep our people from being driven out of our own homeland.

Due to foreign & big corporation purchases it has driven the housing market to an unrealistic purchase option for our own people. Families don't see their each other due to working 3 to 4 jobs a day to provide a roof over their heads, food on the table, & some sort of stability just to be able to live here in Hawai'i.

Due to the unfortunate fires here on Maui, we now see that this bill is needed more than ever to keep our people here. We need to put a stop to foreign purchases of land & homes so we & our children can have a chance to live in our own homeland.

Mahalo,

Starlet Ho'opai-Kekiwi

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:59:46 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lynn Boswell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this BILL and believe it is not unconstitutional. BUT What has been done to our people has been unconstitutional and we need measures in place to ensure our resources which includes housing and land for our people and the future generations to come.

as Hawaiians we don't have a place of our own we can't go home to somewhere separate like the Samoans and Tongans and we cannot allow greed or money to take precedence over our precious commodity's and make life unreasonably harder and stressful for the People of Hawaii! Mahalo!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:01:07 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Namelelani Kekuewa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Namelelani Kekuewa. I was raised in Kea'au, Puna of Hawai'i Island by my mother. My father lived in Waianae. Neither of my parents owned homes and have been on the Hawaiian Homelands waitlist for decades.

My father died in 2022 dreaming of owning a property where he could have a farm of his own and be sustainable. My parents' dreams of owning their own property grew further from their reality as cost of living continued to rise and housing costs were becoming impossible with their simple incomes. They then hoped that their children would get the opportunity by going to college and getting better paying jobs but instead, we were pushed into debt and the housing costs rose even higher making it nearly impossible to even rent and endure the cost of food and gas!

We are now seeing the extremely sad reality that the children raised in Hawaii cannot afford to live in Hawaii. It is forcing us to live comfortably in the Continental US. Sadly, there are more native Hawaiians that live in the continental US than in Hawaii.

Speaking from experience as a Native Hawaiian living in the Continental US, those of us who are unable connect to our home land, our piko, our one hanau, are prone to losing our sense of self and community. This creates a deep insecurity for us and a wide variety of mental health problems.

Hawai'i needs Hawaiians. No one knows how to care for Hawai'i like us. And vice versa, Hawaiians need Hawai'i because no one knows how to care for us like Hawai'i does. Hawai'i is in our blood and in our spirit. To rip us away from our lands is to make our culture and traditions extinct. Keep Hawai'i Hawaiian by keeping Hawaiians in Hawai'i!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:02:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jocelyn Inocelda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was born and raised in Hawaii. I have seen so many of my family move away due to the inability to afford a home here. Hawaii has become a place catered to foreigners and tourists more than those who were born and raised here. More and more residents are forced to leave or work multiple jobs or have multi generational homes in order to afford their month / daily bills. And we wonder why crimes have increased. It's become desperate times. I support this bill to allow Kanakas like myself to actually own property one day. Take care of the people here and they will take care of you. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:03:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha All,

I stand in full support of bill SB2617.

PLEASE PROTECT HAWAII.

Mahalo,

Melissa Kahoopii

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:03:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadine Kuikahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Nadine Kuikahi and I support Bill SB2617. I've lived in my neighborhood for 20 years and because it's Hawaiian Homestead our neighbors doesn't change much. But just outside of our neighborhood so many new projects, bigger homes, more traffic and no real infrastructure put in place. They don't care about the kids walking home from school or playing in the streets like the good ol days. Not enough crosswalks, parking, and even adequate lighting. But what you do see is these homes going up and listed for sale but nobody living in them, it just sits. All the while driving up taxes around it to the point where our own people can no longer afford to buy a home. Our family of 4 that consists of 2 working parents income is \$300,000+ and we can afford our home but to think my children in a few short years won't be able to buy anything on their own is a scary nightmare that I don't want to wake up too. If we do not take a stand now against foreign buyers it'll be a harsh reality that my kids may one day have to leave the place they call home 

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:04:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camryn Kaina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Foreigners should NOT have the right to purchase land on O'ahu. Many reasons why but most importantly it implies that the local Hawaii residents are simply "priced out of paradise". Foreigners primarily use these properties as vacation homes or AirBnb rentals that do not help the local community but in fact, cater to the foreigners and primarily tourism.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:04:30 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sasha Kamahele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a lifelong resident of Hawaii, a Native Hawaiian, and a mother and today I stand before you to strongly advocate for the passage of S.B. 2617, aptly named "The Long Overdue Bill." This legislation is not just a policy change; it's a cry from the heart of Hawaii's people for justice, sustainability, and the preservation of our culture and lands.

For generations, Native Hawaiians and local residents have watched helplessly as our beautiful islands have been commodified and sold to the highest bidders—many of whom have no connection to our culture, our struggles, or our aspirations for a sustainable future. The impact of this unchecked development and foreign ownership of our lands has been devastating. Our people are being priced out of their homeland, forced to live in a state of perpetual economic insecurity, while the very essence of what makes Hawaii unique is eroded by overdevelopment and environmental degradation.

The sale of Hawaiian land to foreign entities is not just an economic issue; it's a moral one. Hawaii, with its rich history and unique cultural identity, has long been subjected to the consequences of illegal occupation and the subsequent illegal sale of Native Hawaiian lands. This bill represents an opportunity to right those wrongs, to take a stand against the continued exploitation of our islands, and to prioritize the well-being of our people and the health of our ecosystems over the greed that has driven policy for too long.

Moreover, Hawaii's delicate environment and limited natural resources are at a tipping point. Issues such as water shortages, food insecurity, and damage to our ahupua'a and natural resources are exacerbated by the pressures of development and population growth driven by outsiders. We are custodians of these islands, tasked with protecting and preserving them for future generations. This bill is a critical step in fulfilling that responsibility.

In closing, I implore you to listen to the voices of your constituents who have long suffered the consequences of a real estate and socio-economic system that favors profit over people. The passage of "The Long Overdue Bill" is a necessary action to protect Hawaii's lands, its people, and its future. We have reached a point where the cost of inaction is too great to bear.

I thank you for your time and for considering my testimony on this vital matter. I hope that we move forward together, making decisions that honor our past, safeguard our present, and ensure a sustainable future for our keiki.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:04:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is a special place and should be kept to the people of Hawaii. We shouldn't have to leave here because we can't afford it while outside people come in and buy it all. People of Hawaii should always come first.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:05:11 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaun Saffery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having Native Hawaiian ancestry that stems from all four of my grandparents, it is sad to say only one of grandparents own a home. This home now serves as the home of four generations. Four generations that make up a total of 14 individuals. As these individuals, myself included, make due with what we have, we are saddened to see the prices of housing increase due to foreign buyers and investors. They not only increase housing price, but are in a place to outbid locals for available homes, which also reduces (the already) limited number of available homes for sale. My sister, another member of this four generation home, has been searching for a home for more than 5 years. Homes that have skyrocketed in price because of foreign buyers, and because of that she will probably have to wait a decade more before she can afford to compete with a foreign buyer. I am sure none of this information is new. However, I share it as a reminder that this is the reality of locals living in Hawai'i in 2024. We continue to make due with what we have, and we hope our leaders will help us to remain in Hawai'i, comfortably.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:06:25 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chloe S	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:06:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kelsi k	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Born and raised here and will never have a chance to own a home here if something is not done

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:07:38 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keahi Kuikahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Keahi S Kuikahi and I support Bill SB2617. I've lived in my neighborhood for 20 years and because it's Hawaiian Homestead our neighbors doesn't change much. But just outside of our neighborhood so many new projects, bigger homes, more traffic and no real infrastructure put in place. They don't care about the kids walking home from school or playing in the streets like the good ol days. Not enough crosswalks, parking, and even adequate lighting. But what you do see is these homes going up and listed for sale but nobody living in them, it just sits. All the while driving up taxes around it to the point where our own people can no longer afford to buy a home. Our family of 4 that consists of 2 working parents income is \$300,000+ and we can afford our home but to think my children in a few short years won't be able to buy anything on their own is a scary nightmare that I don't want to wake up too. If we do not take a stand now against foreign buyers it'll be a harsh reality that my kids may one day have to leave the place they call home 

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:08:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Oren Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Oren Kinoshita Father Of 3 Beautiful amazing girls & My Fiance.

I wanted to come here & write this testimony on why I fully 100% support & want to see this bill pass.

This is not for me & my fiance. This is for my keikis future & everybody else's ohanas keiki of Hawaii. We don't want to get Priced Out Of Our Paradise & tell our kids why we don't live in Hawaii anymore. We want to show our keiki that Hawaii will Forever Be The Home without any hassle. We Are Born & Raised In Hawaii & We Want to Show Our Kids As There Parents That We Can Raise Them In Our Sweet Home Hawaii!! Not Anywhere Else! This is important to the Local People in Hawaii That Were Born here and can show proof with there Hawaii Birth Certificate!

If this bill passes & I hope it does Have All of the Foreigners show proof of a Hawaii Birth Certificate & not a Hawaii Drivers License. If not Hawaii Birth Certificate not presented have them sell there house to local families that are born here & not flown here.

Mahalo!!!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:08:30 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill 100%. We need to support our local Hawaiian population by making it affordable as well as sustaining.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:09:34 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah Padilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am tired of foreign entities having the gross ability to purchase Hawaii land and robbing locals of the opportunity to afford a future in their home. The fact that foreign entities can leverage their cash and outbid locals goes breaks up our communities and drives up our housing prices. Hawaii is losing the very people that continue the Aloha Spirit that Hawaii is known and beloved for. I support SB2617 in the hope that we can keep Hawaii Lands in local hands.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:10:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Vandermeer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in favor of this bill. It is about time we take care of the people already living here. No more to outsiders

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:15:18 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tisha Bredeson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB2617. Our housing crisis is a result of foreign investors who make money then leave. Nothing was done for the locals here.... I say No more selling to foreign investors.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:16:18 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
melissa tomlinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree it's long past time to put heavy restrictions on foreign investors I. Hawai'i. To much of Hawai'i is pimped out to people with poor intentions and no connection to the land or communities in the pae 'āina. There are much more appropriate ways to govern the land for its people. The people, especially the Kānaka Maoli/ Ōiwi, must have precedence in the places they from. Please support this Bill.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:17:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doug Bautista Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:17:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michael crompton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill, enough of Hawaii is already foreigned owned making it difficult for us residents to purchase property

I myself have expienced difficulty in purchasing a home here because hii ok mea are being sold to foreigners 20% over ask and sometimes sight unseen!! Please help save Hawaii and pass this bill so we will be able to afford to live here

VR

Michael Crompton

US Army Meddic Ret

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:17:54 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duke Ha'o	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:18:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caitlin Reposar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Kaneohe resident and am writing to beg that you pass this bill. I have seen firsthand the downside of foreign investors purchasing real estate properties on this island. They buy condos, townhouses, or single family homes and aren't contributing to the local economy. They're reaping the benefits of the exorbitant profit but that money isn't being put into anything local. Instead, kanaka and local people that ARE spending their hard earned money here, on island, within our local economy, struggle to afford a home of their own. So many other states and countries put limits in place for foreign buyers. Why hasn't Hawaii joined in?

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:19:54 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testimony Position	Testify
Alika Sing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How is it argued if the sale of land to foreigners is constitutional? Is the occupation of America constitutional? Is the sale of alodial lands constitutional? Has the government kept its constitutional duties to protect Hawaiians, the culture? Why are so many Hawaiians still waiting to receive homesteads. I support this bill to stop the sale of Hawaiian lands to foreigners. Precedence should be given to native Hawaiians

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:19:56 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Melemai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill for the local people of Hawaii. The housing market is unaffordable chasing us locals out of our own homes and towns. We need to re-gain our homes, culture, and identities back.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:22:38 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Franklin	Testifying for Hawaii Family Advocacy Group	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for the Passage of SB2617

A Commitment to Our Hawaiian Legacy

Joshua Franklin
Hawaii Family Advocacy Group

hifamilyadvocacy@gmail.com

Aloha Members of the Legislative Committee,

It is with the warmth and respect that is due to our cherished tradition of community, Ohana, Lāhui, Keiki o Ka ‘Aina and those who have chosen to move to Hawaii to be an active part of our Society, I submit my unwavering support for Senate Bill 2617. This proposed legislation deeply resonates with the Hawaiian ethos of 'ohana and malama 'aina, as it fosters communal upliftment, the safeguarding of our unique cultural heritage, and the embrace of sustainable stewardship that honors our land and resources.

Senate Bill 2617 stands as a beacon for progressive change, offering substantial benefits to our Hawaiian community by allowing the local people to manage and benefit off of our progression. This bill is a testament to our shared vision for a flourishing Hawai'i, one where the principles of aloha 'aina guide us toward a future of abundance and harmony. I affirm that its enactment will mark a significant stride in fortifying the health and wealth of our islands.

I urge the committee to acknowledge the manifold of advantages SB2617 promises for our local enterprises, our diverse communities, and the delicate balance of our island ecosystem. It is with hopeful anticipation that I look to the Senate to endorse this vital legislation.

Mahalo nui loa for your dedicated service to our state and for considering this testimony. I eagerly anticipate the prosperity and progress that SB2617 will usher into our Hawai'i.

With deepest respect and aloha,

Joshua Franklin
Hawaii Family Advocacy Group
(808) 365-8773

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:23:05 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hau'oli Thielk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop selling our Hawaii lands and homes to foreigners, and anyone who is not from here. Americans included. We have limited resources here and and we have shared enough with people not from here who use our aina as a way to profit for their livliehood. The government needs to take care of the people from here first, especially the Kanaka Maoli, whose lives and lands were stolen when America overthrew our government and took away our freedom. We cannot afford to live in our own homelands anymore. Where are we supposed to go? America is not my home so moving there is not an option and being homeless in my own homeland does not sound like fun. Please stop selling land to foreigners, Americans not from here included, and take care of the people born and raised here! Mahalo

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:23:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Bento	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Jasmine, I am 33 years old, born and raised in Hawaii. I am in support of SB2617 because this bill is truly long overdue. This isn't just about the Hawaiian people being forced out of Hawaii because of the forever sky rocketing cost of living, but for all the cultures that have grown up here for decades and have a appreciation for the land and the culture. The people of Hawaii deserve to be put first. Our children that grow up here deserve the opportunity to be able to afford buying a home where they grew up. This bill needs to pass so we can secure a future for our younger generations! So with that being said Mahalo to the legislators and to the people who created this bill.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:24:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joselyn Olinares	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The phrase "Priced out of paradise" has become the sad reality for many born in Hawaii including myself who have since left because they simple cannot afford to continue living where they were born and raised. How incredible sad it is that we have had to move away from the place we call home because we could not afford to settle down and lay down our own roots. It is about time for the state to make a stand for the people of Hawaii, not the people of mainland, and take action. This bill gives all those who left a chance to finally return to THEIR home.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:24:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Valentine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support SB2617

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:25:07 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystal Chavez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a 4th generation Hawai'i born and raised woman of color who cannot make enough money to purchase a d in the only place i've known and called home, I believe this bill will make it easier and possible to raise my siblings, children, grandchildren and future generations in the land that raised me and my lineage.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:26:03 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madisyn Polendey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the bill SB2617 relating to real property to be passed in Hawaii.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:27:46 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony-Kevin Jaquias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

This will hopefully start the end of the housing crisis here in hawaii. Too many locals are getting displaced and pushed out of hawaii. We can't afford to live in the place we were born. Too many outsiders coming in the buy their second homes when we as locals can't even afford our first home.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:27:48 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

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

Comments:

I'm in my mid 20s but even prior to the pandemic I've seen and heard stories of so many families being displaced because they can no longer afford their homes or wherever they rent. With the pandemic, there was a huge influx of people from out of state coming in and moving here. Although this provides more workers for a growing Hawai'i, this also takes away so much from Kanaka Maoli and Kama'aina. I've met friends whose families had to move out from the North Shore and their homes being bought by foreigners in order to become beach houses. Even the people in Waianae & Nanakuli are now facing this gentrification all because foreign people want to be closer to the beaches. This isn't fair because Native Hawaiians have to wait years on the Hawaiian Homestead list, with strict rules to just pass down their house. I'm Filipino-American and my grandparents came here because of the plantation and better opportunities, but sometimes I feel the need to move away from MY home just so I can make space for displaced Kanaka that deserve it more.

BAN FOREIGNERS FROM PURCHASING LAND. KEEP THE LAND IN KANAKA & KAMA'AINA HANDS

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:28:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Kimokeo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i's finite land and resources needs to be protected from foreign interests, which focus on purchase solely for profit. Hawai'i is not Hawai'i without its local people, and especially the native and indigenous kanaka of the land. I am speaking as a native Hawaiian who has family that has been displaced and now living on the continent. Too many locals are priced out of paradise because foreign investors with deep pockets have swooped in and driven the market up exponentially, for decades. We are seeing the unfortunate repercussions of these purchases by the mass exodus of local and native Hawaiians being forced to leave the land their families have lived on for generations. As much as ignorant people want to say "Hawai'i is a state like any other state," it is NOT, and needs to be recognized for its unique history, particularly when it comes to how the locals and native Hawaiians have time and again NOT been protected or considered. It is time to prioritize the people who are the true stewards of the land, who respect, appreciate, and most importantly, are invested in taking care of and maintaining the integrity of this precious land and its resources.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:28:22 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melialani Hamilton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislature,

I am in favor of SB 2617 for many reason. I am a resident and Native Hawaiian of Maui. I can only speak on my experience as a resident and renter here on Maui Island while I am still aware of the housing crisis faced by residents throughout the state. As you know, Maui has had an extreme housing crisis even before the Lahaina fires which has only been worsened by the fires. Local people and Native Hawaiians can barely afford the cost of living on Maui and finding somewhere to live is almost impossible. Foreign developers and home owners have no connection to this land or community. They have no awareness of the culture or the issues and concerns of the people. Foreign land owners use most of the islands resources and gouge rent prices to create a competition that locals and natives are struggling to compete with. Not only is the cost of living and availability of housing negatively impacted by foreign ownership of land but the environment is deeply impacted as well. These foreign owners do not understand the the limited resources that we have on our islands. They have no concept of the spiritual and genealogical bonds that the local and native people have to this land and water.

I am a young person in my late 20s working full time. I want to be able to own a home and start a family. In my role, I am on the frontlines educating visitors about our natural and cultural resources on a daily basis. I am someone who is dedicated to life long learning and perpetuating culture. My ancestors come from this land, they are buried in this land, and their legacy lives on through me. And I will never be able to afford a home on Maui.

I think it is about time we see a bill like this. I actually do not think it is strict enough! I think we should start limiting not only foreign buyers but also other Americans from out of state. I think you should have to prove a long term residency before you can buy land here. Land should be available for purchase from the people who live here, work here, pay state taxes, contribute to the economy, etc.

or even make a bill that limits short term rentals! This was done in Lake Tahoe in California to limit the amount of tourism and outside buyers in the Tahoe area and it was done because of the same issues we are facing, lack of housing, disrespect from tourists, unfair housing prices, and environmental impacts.

I urge our senate to do better for the people that make Hawai'i, Hawai'i we are the ones who perpetuate culture, who teach the next generations, who take care of the ill, who care for the land, who serve your tourists, and so much more. It's been long enough. Take care of your people. Our government is supposed to advocate for the people, not greedy corporations and billionaire opportunists.

mahalo nui loa!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:28:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cierra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, i am in support of this bill. I am of Hawaiian descent and over the years it has been harder and harder to find land let alone afford land here. This will help ensure the future generation will have a place to live and can prevent more and more hawaiians from leaving the state.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:28:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Marquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. It IS long overdue!!!! Mahalo.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:28:51 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am in support of SB2617

Mahalo,

Teani Marquez

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:29:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose foreigners from purchasing Hawaiian land.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:30:22 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello my name is David Beatty and I was born and raised on Oahu. 38 years old now and currently serving the United States Coast Guard. I recently saw this bill being processed via social media and I wholeheartedly support the "Long Overdue" bill. Growing up and living on Oahu until 34 I have seen family and friends who have lived on the island for generations forced to move away for better living situations. If hawaii was not grotesquely exploited by foreign entities I believe my loved ones would have had a better chance of staying. Please allow this bill to be passed. Thank you. 🙌

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:30:49 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelise Chun-Guernsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i is my home, and always will be and I'd like to keep it that way. I have been born and raised here in Hawai'i my whole life. I always thought it was normal to have to work hard, maybe even three to four jobs, to be able to stay here in my home. Everyone in Hawai'i has to hustle. I am Chinese, Hawaiian and little bit German, Irish, and my family for some stupid reason sold off any land that they did own probably due to financial issues at the time. I am twenty-seven now and always think about if I myself a middle-class worker will be able to one day afford my own home on any of the Hawaiian islands. I honestly don't think I will if things continue the way they have been over the past twenty years. Land is hard to come by, no local people can afford all these condos and high rises coming up, and yet that's all we are seeing. Buisness people from the mainland coming here to buy a vacation home or an air bnb taking away from Hawai'is very own people. I don't think that it's fair that those who visit here once and fall in love with the thought of Hawai'i get the opprotunities to stay. And those of us who grew up here and actually love this island and all the nostalgic memories made here, and the place we've always called home, are the ones who can't afford to even think about staying.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:31:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelynn Bacarro-Selose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Angelynn Bacarro-Selose, a mother of 3 keiki.

I support this long overdue bill to finally have hope for a chance.

A chance to afford and buy a house for us, my keiki, and for the next generations here in Hawai'i.

Mahalo Nui!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:31:30 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawehionalani Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui, I Kawehionalani Souza as a lineal descendant to the Royal heirs of this Pae Aina stand in full support of this bill to protect our future generations ability to be sustainable and live in the ways of our ancestors, if we choose to and how we see fit! Mahalo for your time Aloha

THE TIME IS NOW! Make it PONO!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:31:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:32:31 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Halie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The cost of living here in Hawaii is already extremely high, especially when our minimum wage is compared to our living costs. As Iam Tongi said during his audition for American Idol, he was "priced out of paradise," as many of our local people who were born & raised here in Hawaii have had no choice but to leave. This is one of the main reasons that have led to a constant increase of our high homeless population, with a rate of 434 per 100,000 residents

(<https://www.security.org/resources/homeless-statistics/>).

According to James Mak and Justin Tyndall,

"The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that, between July 1, 2018 and July 1, 2019, Hawaii's population decreased by 4,721. Hawaii was one of ten states to lose population. Hawaii has been losing population for three consecutive years beginning in 2017."

This leads to the main issue at hand. The increased amount of foreigners who have been consistently moving to Hawaii over the years has significantly increased. In addition to this, the amount of foreign billionaires, such as Mark Zuckerberg, who owns 1,500 acres of land in Hawaii, land which was entitled to native people & was taken without regard. Billionaires in Maui who own estates (such as Oprah and Jeff Bezos with their houses in Lāhainā). Land which could have belonged to the local people of our islands. Not to mention the many people from Maui who are still displaced & struggling from the devastating Lāhainā fires. We cannot afford any more of our native people being booted to the streets or forced to leave the island by foreigners buying out our land. Our native population is dwindling & being taken over by foreigners. We must forbid more foreign entities from coming in & claiming ownership over our land.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:32:54 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonny Sing-Kahalehau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Kanaka Maoli I want Hawaiian lands to stay in Hawaiian hands.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:33:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenaya Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS IN HAWAIIAN HANDS.

For years us Hawaiians have been fighting for our rights in our own state. We shouldn't have to be fighting for what should be rightful ours. We've been struggling to get by due to prices being ridiculously high, families having to live with families because a 2 bedroom house is all the can afford, some even end up moving off island so they can live where they can afford a living.

Simply "priced out of paradise" while foreigners with money come in and steal what's not theirs.

This bill being passed would be a HUGE win for us Hawaiians. Give us what we deserve!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:36:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Mariko Ernzer, I was born and raised on the island of Maui and now reside on Oahu. I have seen a lot change over the years, the islands used to be accommodating to its people, how could the new terms of government continue to deteriorate everything Hawaii is. The reason why Hawaii people have become so bitter is because of uncertainty of our government, they have failed us. Maui is full of time shares catering to out of state and Canadians, they now call my home town Kihei, little Canada, as per the Canadian snow birds. The prices of housing is ridiculous, only the wealthy can afford which living in Hawaii with our ridiculous rent, bills and minimum pay is hard enough, but competing with people from out of state or country has made it impossible for people who have generation's imbedded in this land. The people who buy properties not from here don't respect the people or the culture, even though it's diverse. Many who purchase land rent it out to other foreigners as air bnb to make profits, taking away housing that could be for the people who's land got stolen or displaced. It has always been seeded in me that our government should change the law and make it that if you want to purchase land in Hawaii, you must live and rent in the state for at least 10 full years, no part time. That way they respect the culture and earned your right to purchase, if they don't like, or try to complain then Hawaii is not for them. If Maui didn't have all the air bnb, timeshares and foreign purchased land, the people of Lahaina after the fire would have had more places to relocate , instead there are many families that have already lost so much losing more. Locals from this land that have been saving to own a house on the land which their ancestors lived can actually remain where their heart is. All I'm asking is if they want to purchase land, let them rent here for a decade then only then they can allocate to own property. Let the people who's hearts live here be able to stay here.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:37:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mia Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2617 and feel that we need to protect our land for the future generations of keiki and prohibit foreign ownership of land. Also we should not allow for places to be purchased and left empty and used for shell properties. mahalo for listenting!

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:38:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teleise Scanlan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Teleise Scanlan. I'm a 32 year old, native Hawaiian and Samoan mother of 5 boys. My husband is a police officer in Puna, county of Hawai'i. My 'ohana goes back 13 generations in Ka'u and before that, Hana. I am kupa'āina, not kama'āina.

I have witnessed a lifetime of disparity. In every culture, the essence lies within the people. Kūpuna, along with the latest social psychology publications, inform us that people are lost without language and land. The people of Hawai'i are finally advocating for both. Hear us.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:38:56 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen krzyska	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It shouldn't be allowed. Leave Hawai'i in Hawaiian hands

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:39:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jada Ann Spencer	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Jada-Ann Kamalani Spencer, I am a native Hawaiian who grew up in Kaimuki my entire life. My families property in Kaimuki has been in our lineage for 5 generations, I am next in line for ownership. Growing up in Kaimuki I have seen many changes in our neighborhood, one of them being the "Monster Houses" being built by foreigners to then used as long term or short term rental properties. This has not only spiked our property taxes up but caused a shift in our neighborhood. This is affecting Native Hawaiians being able to continue to live and raise their families in our own home. Foreigners should not be able to buy property in the State of Hawaii. We need to start putting our own peoples needs first.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:40:42 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keliyah Kimitete-Pias	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha. My name is keliyah kimitete, I was born and raised in Kailua Kona Hawaii as was my mother, her mother before her, and so on and so forth. I've witnessed so much changes on our aina since I was a kid, and so has my mom, and my grandmother. Now I have a son of my own and I dread what his future will look like or if he will even be able to live here on his ancestral land or if he will be displaced all because you Americans still think it right to sell land that you've stolen.

The developments on our islands have gotten far out of hand and out of the control of the keepers of this aina, Hawaiians. For this reason, the ignorance of Americans and the constant desecration of hawaiian land without Hawaiian permission, I support the bill that would not allow foreigners and non Hawaii residents to purchase land and property here (real estate).

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:40:58 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josiah Kaleo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a local and part Hawaiian citizen of Hawai'i who is a Husband and Father of two as well. I work 40+ hours a week as a blue collard worker to take care of my family and pay my \$2,000.00 rent. I dream and hope to purchase a home someday for my family as many other local and Hawaiian families hope to do as well. The continuing rising costs of housing and over all everything makes it difficult to make that dream a reality. A family home my Grandparents bought in Pearl City back in 1969 had cost them \$23,000.00 and a home my Parents bought in the same location back in 2000 cost them \$215,000.00. Those house prices are different 31 years apart but they were both met with the wages my Grandfather and Father were receiving at the time. These homes are now worth around or more than \$1,000,000.00 today and no one can afford that unless you have a large source of income or a large down payment. This bill SB2617 will bring the prices down to a more affordable amount majority can agree with by also keeping outside buyers out who have been getting away for years purchasing homes and land local families can't compete with due to the higher offers these outsiders can provide on these expensive properties. This will give us the people who were born and raised here a chance to raise our younger generations to come, keep our culture and save the future of Hawai'i.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:42:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantellee Konohia Spencer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB2617 WHICH PROHIBITS FOREIGN PRINCIPALS FROM ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE OR ANY INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY IN THE STATE.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:42:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana-Malia Kelelii Kawaihoa-Marquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai, my name is Tiana Malia Kelelii Kawaihoa Marquez. I am a child of a mother who was adopted from the Queen Liliuokalani Trust for Hawaiian children. We have grown up in a multigenerational style home due to the inability to generate enough funds to afford to buy property on our own land.

It hurts to see foreign entities utilize the sacredness of this place where my ancestors have been from for hundreds of years, as a profitable playground for the rich. I dream of living a life where my hard work can pay off, to buy and have land and continue to not only survive but thrive on the land my ancestors have been for generations.

This bill provides a glimmer of hope to our people, and to myself. I've seen how this bill can unite all people, hawaiian or not, as I have friends who have no connection to this place standing in unison with myself and my family.

Please allow us to be nourished. Stand in support of SB2617.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:43:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vincent Gutierrez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Vincent and I would like to support this bill by starting off with saying the increasing prices in homes have been an issue for years. I do realise that Hawaii is a money pot for real estate and the most sought out for non-native to purchase and flip but it is pushing away locals and Hawaiians to move out of state. There is no Hawaii or culture without the natives and locals and this real estate issue is causing frustration and more crimes. The increase in pricing will cause an increase in criminal activity.

I want to believe that we can pass the bill to ban foreigners from purchasing homes if it they don't live here but I'm convinced that. There are people who aren't here for locals or culture and are more interested in making money weather or not it causes the culture of Hawaii to die.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:44:20 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamalei Benjamin-Maielua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. Our future generations depend on this. Thousands die in the Hawaiian homes list. Let's not keep that going but start making moves to get land in Hawaiians hand.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:44:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hiilani Pila	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as a Native Hawaiian wanting myself and my future generations to continue to live and thrive on our land, the land of our ancestors. Foreign buyers should not be allowed to purchase land her causing the housing market to sky rocket every year further pushing Native Hawaiians and local families out. Families that have been in Hawaii for generations should have the opportunity to afford to live and thrive in Hawaii.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:44:49 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Courtney holler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a foreigner myself from the United States, but a current resident of Hawai'i for 3.5 years, I have witnessed in these last years how important it is that land be accessible to the native people of Hawai'i. It is heartbreaking to see how many Hawaiians are being pushed out of their Kingdom because of the exponentially increasing prices of their land. I believe it is so important to create affordable housing for Kānaka Ma'oli for many reasons. The idea of "owning" land itself was not even a thought for Kanaka Maoli, as we have seen from the past that was only integrated as colonization began and even when the new constitution was passed, the people of Hawai'i's voices were not able to be heard because Americans were already controlling legislation and manipulating it to their benefit. The amount of land that has already been bought out from the native Hawaiians is immense, and prices will drive up continuously with foreign land ownership here and eventually it will be unrealistic for majority of Hawaiians to afford to live here. The outside demand for land in Hawaii cannot be competed with by the native people who live here who have had to flow with the ever increasing prices here while also trying to save to be able to afford the land that foreign buyers can spend easily.

We have seen what foreign ownership has done to the economy here and it is not going to change unless the policies change. We have to learn from the past and make changes for the future of Hawai'i and her people. It is completely unethical to continue in the path that we are on. We need to give Hawaiians back their land.

The constitution is not a proper basis to use as an argument for this bill. look at how it has negatively affected the island and its people. It is unreasonable to use as a way to make a decision based on Hawai'i and its people when the Hawaiians had no say in what was written and implemented. It is so important that we put the people of Hawai'i first for the sake of the future of the land and its people, and we will continue to fight for that which is right, not only until our last breaths, but the breaths of the generations to come. Hawaiian land will always be rightfully for the people of Hawai'i no matter the result of this bill and we should be doing everything we can to support this bill.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:00:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Summer Mokiao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because as a born and raised Hawaiian, I've sadly watched and said goodbye to many family members and friends who felt the pressure of not being able to stay in their home state. Not being able to raise their children here. This bill is only one step towards the people fighting for what was taken from us so many years ago. We have been left only with ultimatums ever since land it's time for a change. It's more than just not allowing foreigners to freely purchase or own property but it's also about preserving our heritage, our culture, our traditions for our future and for the future of our children.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:47:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmen Mitsuyasu-Gapero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Comments:

I, Carmen MitsuyasuGapero, strongly support SB 2617.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:47:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justine Robello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:47:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawai Gibson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of the "long overdue" bill! Stop foreigners from buying property in Hawai'i. Keep Hawai'i lands in Hawaiian hands! Always!

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:49:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradley Nakamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop selling out our lands to people who have zero connections, no understanding of the lifestyle and ways of living here. Mainland people are like cancer to our islands! Let alone people in house who aren't even born and raised here calling the shots as if they know better than the people who lived here for generations all their life.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:50:03 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Na Nea A. Livingston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair Lee, and members of the Committees,

Aloha mai kākou, 'O Na Nea Koa Maka A. Livingston ko'u inoa. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 2617 relating to Real Property.

I, Na Nea Koa Maka A. Livingston, stand in support of SB2617 as a rooted Kanaka Maoli of He'eia, Kāne'ohe, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahulua.

Mahalo again, for this opportunity to testify and for your time.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:50:03 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill. I believe it's the right choice to have a bill like this in effect as it favors the true people of Hawaii.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:50:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keala Doctorello-Neizman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's impossible to buy a home in Hawaii. The foreigners come here, buy and build homes/buildings that the people that were born & raised here can't afford. I already have one child that left because there is no future here. It's a shame that the people that live here and love these islands can't stay. We're getting pushed out of Hawaii. It's not right. The island belong to the Hawaiians. This needs to stop now before it gets worse.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:51:45 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hiileiakaua Coelho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:51:50 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laci leialoha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill SB2617. My ancestral land needs to stop being sold to the highest bidder while my people suffer.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:52:19 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha! To whom this may concern,

I am born and raised on Oahu, surrounded by my parents and their parents.. The community we grew up in is not the same as today. I moved to Maui with my 4 year old daughter last year and we were here doing the fires. I lost my job and so did my wife. I am of Hawaiian decent, grew up dancing hula and know all things Hawai'i. To see these foreigners move to Oahu and ESPECIALLY on Maui, it is heartbreaking. They are rising the prices for them and we can't afford it. Even after losing things, we as a community are still rebuilding. We have to do better. It's so white washed and my child shouldn't be living in Hawai'i, growing up with all kine haoles everywhere. This is unreal and I can't believe this is even a bill. Love for the land and the people. Give us back what is right!!!! Homes and land for us. Help US. Why Hawai'i showing aloha to the foreigners first. Show ALOHA to OUR people. The haoles don't understand that mentality and never will. Once we're all gone, this place will cease to exist. DON'T BE THE REASON!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:52:23 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamala Apana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kākou,

I am Kamāla ‘Āpana and sending much Aloha from our garden isle of Kaua‘i to all that love Hawai‘i.

This sacred island is my birthplace where God chose for me to be born and live an abundant life from Mauka to Makai, just like my Kūpuna and now my future generations.

As beloved children of this blessed Pae ‘Aina, we have a great inherent responsibility to take care of our ancestral domain which comprises of all the lands, inland waters, coastal areas and natural resources therein, including our Hawaiian fishponds and lo‘i kalo which are vital to perpetuate an extremely productive and sustainable food system that provides nourishment for our Lāhui through innovative aquaculture and agricultural techniques.

Please prohibit all foreign principals from acquiring any real property in Hawai‘i or any interest in real property in the Hawaiian Archipelago. All real property that is owned or acquired unlawfully shall be penalized with a judgment of forfeiture.

I would like to extend a special Mahalo Nui Loa to Senators Awa, Keohokalole, & McKelvey for introducing SB2617 and to all those who support it along with my ‘Ohana! Mālama Pono!

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Kamāla ‘Āpana

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:53:07 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tawney Lee-Wilcox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe Hawaiian lands belong to the people of Hawai'i. We need to stop this overflow of foreign investment in the islands and keep the lands in Hawaiian hands!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:54:53 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Callie Casbere	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Callie Casbere. I am born and raised in Hilo on the Big Island. I moved to Maui in 1992 for a better opportunity with employment. It has been over 36 years and I have not been unable to purchase a home here, not only is it not affordable but also because it's not available. I am a general manager of a restaurant and make over \$92,000 a year and still am unable to afford anything on this island. I know this testimony is not about affordability, but the foreigners coming in and purchasing up our properties is just making it two times more difficult to get ahead and have availability of homes on this island. We need change in all aspects and we need it now.

Mahalo

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:56:15 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear my lovely home of Hawaii,

I Tui F Sooalo Jr support this bill to simply keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands for our people been through so much already and deserve this bill to at least compensate for the illegal occupancy of the United States of America on OUR land. I hope you all find it in your hearts to at least give us the native and indigenous people of the land that! A bill to give the feeling of belonging to the land that is ours, and deciding who is allowed to purchase it.

Much Aloha,

Tui F. Sooalo Jr

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:56:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dalfred Kaipo Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As the Bill states, long overdue. Acquiring land or property is one of the many situations that needs to be addressed today. We have as a people let the velocity of change increase and impact our livelihood and our culture for far too long. This is a step in the right direction. Please consider and hopefully agree that this Bill will help to balance the scales. Hopefully this will in turn give the Native people opportunities to continue to live here or help to give more families the opportunity to move home.

I hope my testimony helps others to understand I miss my family. I don't know if I'll ever see some of them ever again.

Mahalo,

Kalani Kaipo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:56:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence Muñoz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I hereby support SB2617 which restricts foreign investment in housing here in Hawai'i. It is one less force the Kanaka have to contend with in finding affordable housing here on the islands.

With Aloha,

Lawerence Muñoz

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:57:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxanne Carvalho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Housing has been an issue in Hawai'i for too long. As a Kanaka Maoli, seeing so many of our people houseless hurts. As someone who has been houseless multiple times, I know that even hardworking people can struggle in their hometown. When my husband and I attended college, we struggled to keep a roof over our children's heads. Despite trying to provide a better life than our parents could provide for their children, we found ourselves living in our car or camping for an extended period. On many occasions, the thought of moving away from Hawai'i crossed my mind but my husband (who was also born and raised in Hawai'i and lived on the continent after fighting in Iraq) was adamant that this was the best place to raise our family because our family was near and they could live a relatively safe life. Right before I earned my master's degree, God blessed us with a home that we struggle to pay but we do all that we can to ensure that we always have a home and ensure that our mo'opuna have a home they can always go to. Hawai'i has been a tempting location to foreigners for years and they continue to buy up property, creating buildings that are NOT used to house our locals, which even drives our locals to move elsewhere. As Iam Tongi shared with the world, we are priced out of paradise. What will happen when the Hawaiians can't afford to live here? Will Hawai'i even be Hawai'i? Ultimately, when is enough, enough?

LATE LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:57:53 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stanson Chartrand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

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Aloha! My name is Momi Mariani, and I am sharing my testimony on supporting this bill relating to real property. I support this bill because I do not believe foreigners or foreign companies should be able to buy land or housing in Hawaii any more. I don't know much about how things work and the details. However, I know that the housing market to buy a home in Hawaii is outrageous. If I didn't have the support of my parents and their parents who bought land in Hawaii, there would be no way to buy a home for my future. This reality has driven many locals and Native Hawaiians to live elsewhere, where they can afford, most of them having to leave their island home. I believe that foreigners purchasing housing has contributed to this devastating reality. Please pass this bill so that many locals and Native Hawaiians, like me, can have hope in a better future for ourselves and many generations to come. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands! Mahalo for your time and consideration.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:59:15 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Johannson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I want to voice my support for SB2617. As a full time resident of Hawaii, Kanaka Maoli, parent and real property owner I want to see our current and future generations stay in Hawaii. I am hopeful that this bill can help contribute to making Hawaii more affordable for residents to live here. The people and our culture are what make this place special and we need to do a better job of protecting them for the future.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Amber Johannson

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:59:35 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desha-Ann Kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill! Stop the foreigners! We local families need a chance to keep our 'ohana together!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:00:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shylynn Kawamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Shylynn Kawamoto, and I am a 22 year old local resident on the Big Island. I graduated from the University of Hawai'i Hilo with my bachelors degree in Psychology. Growing up, from when I was in K-12, I had to move houses a total of 8 times with 5 other siblings. I had many physically vigorous, sleepless nights throughout my childhood because I had to help my parents and younger siblings pack and move everything within 30 days. We couldn't settle in anywhere. I moved through Hawaiian Paradise Park, Hilo, Kurtistown, and Mountain View 8 times since I was in elementary school. My parents couldn't afford to buy a house that entire time until I was a freshman in college in 2019. We had to rent a house for as long as I can remember. This was during a time where housing was more affordable than what it is now in 2024. I ask you to please look at the housing/rent inflation data, the dangerously rapid rising costs of living, and the average household income from 2008-2023 in Hawai'i. Do the other islands have enough land for more housing development? They say it's supposed to be for our local people, but those from the U.S. continent keep buying out those houses and make it even more expensive to buy. Majority of the time, those houses are used to rent out to earn more income when they had enough money to buy that house in the first place, having multiple homes. How many Hawai'i residents have moved to the U.S. Continent within that timespan? How many of them were under the age of 25? For me personally, I don't want to leave my home. I may not be Hawaiian by blood, but Hawai'i is my home. Rent is getting expensive, and there aren't much affordable places for rent left. Housing is more expensive, and there aren't much houses left for us to buy, let alone afford. The current outlook of this situation is that if we don't have some kind of process in place that gives Hawaiians and local residents a chance to buy a house, Hawai'i will continue to suffer until there is nothing left. This bill has the prospects of helping the overpopulation crisis, helps to prevent the homelessness crisis, and promote affordable housing. I would like to know exactly how this bill is deemed unconstitutional. This bill passes the 4th amendment, as it has procedures or includes other state branches to be involved in making sure that there are steps to be taken and requirements to be met before it would come to a seizure of the property. An unreasonable seizure of property would be without a warrant or other type of official document, without warning. If they have no interest in becoming a resident of Hawai'i, they shouldn't be able to buy houses. If not, the residents won't be able to buy one. There's a difference. I'm a renter myself, and I really want to have hope that I can buy a house to raise a family one day that I can pass on to my children one day. I don't want them to have the kind of childhood I had. I want to give them the stability that I never had, and I don't want to have to worry if my family will be homeless like my parents did. But by the looks of it, I can't. But if this bill gets passed, I might have a shot. The entire

younger generation in Hawai'i might have a shot. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Mahalo.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:00:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micah Manzano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Micah Keaulani Manzano. I am a native Hawaiian born and raised on the island of O'ahu. I am 29 years old, I am happily married with 2 amazing and beautiful daughters. We have been living on Maui since 2017.

My wife and I own 2 local businesses here in Hawai'i. We work almost 24/7 to provide a comfortable life for our family. But no matter how hard we work or how much income we make, it's so hard for us to afford to purchase a home here on Maui. Everytime we try to put a bid on a home, we get out bid, ALWAYS. Why is it so hard for Native Hawaiians to own our own land here? Please consider the bill that is put in front of you today. In hopes that we, kanaka Maoli, will be able to live here in Hawai'i and not have to move away from our homes.

mahalo for your time,

Micah Manzano

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:01:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makoto Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure. Too many people born and/or raised in Hawaii cannot afford homes here. This bill I feel is a first step towards helping make homes here more affordable. There should also be a requirement that people buying property in Hawaii must live here full time or majority of the year.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:01:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Bechert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:04:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nonohe Botelho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family, my children, and my grandchildren can no longer afford to live here in Hawaii. We are getting priced out of our homelands. Keep Hawaii lands out of foreign hands.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:04:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackson Teves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge our legislators to support this bill! Lets keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. Mahalo!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:04:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahekili Nakagawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. I am Kahekili Nakagawa, with support from my grandfather Charles Nakagawa Jr., along with support from my recently deceased mother Ku'ulei Nakagawa. My mom had lost her life due to covid and my grandfather couldn't afford to handle the mortgage. We had to sell the house to foreign investors. This all happened through out the wildfires of Lahaina, Kula, and Kīhei. I just want to live in Hawaii knowing that eventually I wont be bought out by someone who doesn't belong here. This bill would help us all. Please, pass this bill. Aloha from the Nakagawas!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:05:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kea Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this bill! For far too long, Native Hawaiians have been priced out of their own lands and need this bill to pass to prevent outside buyers driving up the cost of real estate and lands.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:06:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Destiny Alegria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I, Destiny Alegria, wholeheartedly support the passing of SB2617. I have firsthand witnessed and been a victim of the housing crisis that occurs throughout our islands. I've had to maintain multiple jobs throughout the years just to keep a roof over my head. There is no quality in life when one has to take extreme actions like this on a daily basis. I am worried for Hawaii's future, especially our keiki who already fear the idea of being "priced out of paradise."

Although this bill may not solve the entirety of our problems, IT IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

LET'S DO OUR ABSOLUTE BEST TO KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS IN HAWAIIAN HANDS!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:08:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diamond Piimoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the prohibition of foreign principals to acquire real property in Hawaii.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:08:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Kawehilani Kalaau Apo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

After years and generations of Native Hawaiians and long time Kama'āina being displaced due to foreign investment, we finally have the opportunity to speak up. I support this bill and do not want foreigners to buy any more property in our islands. It is so difficult fo families to survive here and I do not want my children or grandchildren to leave the only home they've known due to the cost of living.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony. I hope you will seriously consider our appeals for this bill to move forward.

Elena Kawehilani Kalaau Apo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:08:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS TESTIMONY

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:09:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Puna Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Puna Hauoli Young I support this bill on the basic idea that local people have been push out and price out of our lands and businesses. Having this type of protection and law will help local people and native Hawaiians thrive and be able to get access and buy properties for their Ohana and past on to their children for the next generation. Not to worry of being push out of their communities and family lands that were part of their Ohana's for generations and further... I appreciate your time and Aloha.

Mahalo and Aloha Puna

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:10:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Morales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We kanaka are priority to own Hawai'i because this is our ancestral land!

Aloha from Nathan K. Morales

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:10:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Gelacio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I testify in support of SB2617 as an individual citizen of the United States, resident of Hawaii, and Native Hawaiian. For too long have we allowed foreign investors to buy real estate in Hawaii. This has impacted generation after generation of families in Hawaii. We are all familiar with the phrase, "priced out of paradise." But I implore you to recognize that Hawaii is more than a warm, sunny, tropical place - it is a way of life, it is home. For many of us, we know nothing other than this. We have the opportunity today to take a step towards protecting the residents of Hawaii - the people that make Hawaii HOME. I support SB2617 and do not see it as unconstitutional as it does not apply limitations to American Citizens. I believe this bill will provide a fair opportunity to Hawaii Residents - American Citizens to enjoy their rights to private property. Afterall, shouldn't our priority be to serve American Citizens? I kindly ask that this bill be analyzed with full consideration with the people of Hawaii at the forefront of the decision. Mahalo Nui.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:10:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe in this bill and the proposed intent to stop foreign entities from purchasing property on Hawaiian Islands. Hawaii lands are scarce already as it is and Hawaiians are being displaced. No Hawaiians in Hawai'i, then there is no Hawai'i! No more short term rentals profiting off of the so called luxury paradise, while Hawaiians go homeless! Keep our Hawaiians in Hawai'i. So, that we may teach the world what Hawai'i and its culture, its people, its way of life is all about! Mahalo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:11:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaeo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a resident of Hawaii and a Native Hawaiian, I would like to offer my testimony regarding the bill of only allowing residents to purchase homes within our state borders. This policy, in my view, has significant implications for both our community and the individuals seeking to establish roots here.

First and foremost, restricting home purchases to residents helps maintain the integrity and stability of our local housing market. By prioritizing residents, we ensure that housing opportunities remain accessible to those who contribute to our state's economy, culture, and social fabric. This approach helps mitigate the risk of speculative investment and ensures that our neighborhoods are vibrant and sustainable places to live.

Furthermore, limiting home purchases to residents fosters a sense of belonging and community among those who call Hawaii home. It encourages individuals and families to invest in the long-term well-being of our state, both economically and socially. By putting down roots in our communities, residents are more likely to participate in civic life, support local businesses, and contribute to the overall vitality of our neighborhoods.

Additionally, this policy can help address issues of housing affordability and displacement. By prioritizing residents in the housing market, we reduce competition from outside investors, which can drive up prices and push longtime residents out of their homes. By maintaining affordability and stability in our housing market, we can ensure that people of all income levels have the opportunity to live and thrive in our state, with the hope of keeping our kanaka maoli in Hawaii, a place where our cultural identity is rooted and thrives.

In conclusion, I support Bill SB2617, with the policy of only allowing residents to purchase homes in Hawaii is a crucial component of our efforts to build strong, inclusive, and sustainable communities. By prioritizing the needs of residents and fostering a sense of belonging, we can create a future where our local residents have the opportunity to call our state home.

Mahalo Nui,

Ka'eo Paik

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:13:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuuiipo Akaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The people of Hawai'i have given too much already to the point where we no longer have anything that really belong to us also to the point where people are moving out of state because rent/mortgage are getting ridiculous. We're tired of seeing people of other race come into our islands buying out our home lands. It belongs to Kānaka no matter what percent Hawaiian they are. It's unfair and sad that we have to live to where we please others in paradise. Do what's right and stand with the people of Hawai'i. Mahalo!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:13:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Villamor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2617 (2024).

My understanding of the drafted bill is that its intent is to prohibit non-U.S. citizens, residents, or entities from purchasing a controlling interest in property located in the State of Hawaii. With a housing shortage crisis, as declared by Governor Green, I think it only makes sense to start passing these types of measures that prioritizes the interests of Hawaii (and U.S.) residents over that of non-U.S. citizens, residents, or entities.

Like everything else in Hawaii, the cost of housing has astronomically skyrocketed over the past decade. We live in a place that is consistently ranked as the number one state with the highest cost of living in the U.S. while simulatenously ranked as having the lowest annual median wages in the country.

Many Hawaii residents already have to work multiple jobs just to make ends meet and cannot compete with foreign non-U.S. investors who drive up the demand and prices for housing. The supply of housing and land available for development is already so limited due to being on an island and more measures should be passed to prioritize housing Hawaii residents, whether it be through measures like this that restrict and/or prohibit foreign non-U.S. investors from buying up property or perhaps by providing lucrative state credits to those who sell property to Hawaii residents.

I have read through the testimonies that were posted as of February 6, 2024 11:27 AM and would like to offer counteraguments to some of the points brought up in opposition of this bill:

1. Unintended consequences for lenders- I believe lenders licensed in Hawaii have a continuing education requirement. If this bill were to pass, this would become part of the lenders' due diligence.

2. Economic impacts- I believe demand for housing within Hawaii (and U.S.) residents is very strong. I also believe that there are investors within Hawaii and the continental U.S. who are capable and willing to invest in our economy. We should look to utilizing resources within our state and country instead of depending on non-U.S. foreign investors.

Mahalo for your time.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:15:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joustine Tavita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Joustine and I am a Native Hawaiian from O'ahu. I agree to this bill to not allow foreigners to purchase real property.

Middle class make about 120k-150k a year and still struggle to purchase and provide comfortably with these market prices continuing to climb because of them.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:15:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tehani Napoleon-Pico	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

He Hawai'i au mau a mau. I am submitting testimony as a Hawaiian woman living on the lands of my ancestors, my people, my blood. To be Hawaiian is to be proud of this place we call home, Hawai'i. Although we strive to show Aloha and perpetuate the amazing things that we are taught from our culture to everyone, our history and the factual timeline of what occurred in our very own kingdom to our Queen, remains stained through the injustice that had never been properly addressed or given any solution. Rather told as a story, a mo'olelo passed on and on until generations now are having even more difficulty to survive and exist in the very land that is our birthright. Greed, power, and selfishness is what drove our Hawai'i to be where it is today. Million dollar homes and beach front properties being sold to be monetized and recycled like a vacation to paradise. When the locals here know of the truth, the struggle that is "paradise". The reality that to just merely exist, to feed our families, mean counting every last penny we're able to and still not have enough. To watch our elders live their whole lives on a list with no promise of land. While targets, Safeways, and many other huge corporations happily make billions off our people ON Hawaiian land. Continuing to take Hawaiian lands from Hawaiian hands, with no need to give back, when COVID happened and people were losing their jobs, people were in need, still these corporations still flourished. That is "America". So how is it that we know the decisions being made are for the best benefit of the Hawaiian people? We would know wouldn't we. We would feel that support and that change towards the Hawai'i we dream to be. Now washed out, overpopulated with foreigners who have no connection to 'aina and it's importance. This is not an attack to those who don't understand, how can the haole know any better when they watch Hawai'i become a place we are told "needs tourism". That is only true because those in power made it so. We have enough land and resources to become way more self sufficient. We are living in a time where many of us are much more aware of how different things can be, we see through social media, how some countries and places keep their streets clean, crime is low, support to new mothers are present, overall the health and well being of civilians are better because their leaders are taking care of THEM and not just THEMSELVES. It's actually pretty bizarre that Hawaiians need to ask for protection from being bought out from foreigners. Where is our protection? This is why I support this bill, because to support this bill means to support protecting Hawaiian people to have a place called home. It keeps Hawai'i what it's always been, the land of the Hawaiians. We are here. We are not going anywhere, and we will forever fight for our right as Kanaka Hawai'i. Mahalo

He Hawai'i au mau a mau!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:15:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
misty ma'a	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2617. Kako'o piha!

E HO'I KA 'ĀINA I NĀ KANAKA MAOLI O KĒIA PAE 'ĀINA!

For far too long, business and financial interests have abused and stolen our land, water, and way of life, forcing most Hawaiians to leave Hawai'i or struggle to survive in our own homeland. The mindset of profit over people has gotten entirely out of hand and we will not stand for it any longer.

SB2617 is just the first step in restoring pono to some of the hewa that has plagued our people for over 200 years. He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka. If you don't know what that means then you are also part of that hewa.

EO!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:16:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Teriirere	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support this bill...

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:17:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Hawai'i State Congress,

As your constituent, I write to urge your support for passage of 2617 SB. Our native and local families are suffering to continue to live here. For most of us this place is all we know and care about and it's becoming nearly impossible for the younger generation to sustainably buy land, build a home and grow a family to live here. These are drastic times we're in and therefore we need drastic actions and legislation put forth and passed by all of you to protect this place we all call home. Bill 2617 SB will be beneficial to our native and local people however much much more can and needs to be done and now! We're tired of broken promises to our people but yet promises kept to foreign entities. Do what is right by us, our people comes first.

mahalo for your time,

Sarah Martin

From Princeville, Kaua'i

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:18:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shylah Puga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

My name is Shylah Ku'ulei Puga. I am in support of bill SB2617. My support stems from the realization that our keiki of Hawai'i will eventually be forced out of their home land due to outside colonization in our state. This is already being done with our kūpuna and kanaka of Hawai'i. The impact of allowing outsiders to purchase real estate in Hawai'i causes a long stream of poverty for our Hawai'i people and in term, hurts the next generations to come.

My ohana has been forced to sell their Hawaiian home lands property in Kapolei to relocate to Las Vegas, Nevada due to affordable housing. They've also had to give up lifelong relationships with people and ohana as well as jobs in Hawai'i. All of this stem from the housing/real estate price increasing by the minute in our home state.

THIS IS NOT OK! PLEASE PASS BILL SB2617.

Mahalo Nui,

Shylah Puga

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:18:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariah Borden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill to not allow foreigners to purchase land, homes, condos ect. In Hawaii. The housing crisis is made exponentially worse by foreigners able to purchase homes and land here, raising taxes for locals who do have homes and making it impossible for locals to purchase a home for their ohana.

please pass this bill!

mahalo,

mariah Borden, Anahola

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:18:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luke Morales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kākou,

Keep Hawaiian Lands In Hawaiian Hands!

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Luke K. Morales

Age 17 on 2/6/24

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:18:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arika Hultquist	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in favor of this bill because people that were born and raised here are being gentrified out of Hawai'i. If there are no Hawai'ians then there is no Aloha State. This bill will ensure that people who have Hawai'i's best interests at heart and will be actively involved in the communities here. During COVID and now anytime there is a new development (especially low income), wildfire displacement, there have been a lot of instances that outsiders have bought these properties site unseen before anyone here had a chance to even know places were on the market. Please consider the peoples point of view who are struggling to make a better place for our keiki's future.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:18:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anapuhi k Naki	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

As the next generation from Molokai in my ohana I strongly support this bill I would like to see a future for not only myself but for many new generations here on Moloka'i and all the islands to come. For years I've seen struggling local families like myself lose everything and shown no Aloha. Now more then ever It is time for change, it is time for new hope and new beginnings. It is time to save our people and our culture. Not only will this bill stop outsiders buying, it will lower criminal rates and families who are desperate to survive, it will help the people of Hawaii Finally heal. It will provide faster housing. Speeding up the process for those on the hawaiian homelands waitingist thats spent there whole lives waiting, most on the list never lived long enough to see it happen, this bill will help get people into home and faster into jobs now that they have a home. Please allow this bill to pass 🙏 I want my people to stay in hawaii and not move away I want to keep hawaii hawaii because if all of us is gone you can't call hawaii the Aloha state when there is no more Aloha to share. That's whats special about hawaii is its people.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:19:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kukana Kama-Toth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Locals and the indiginous people's of Hawaii are being driven out of their homeland due to high cost of rent and homeownership. Out of state and out of country purchasers of housing and property encourages out of state profit, taking money out of the state, the loss of housing for Hawaiis people due to heigten cost for those who rent. I support this bill.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:19:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryson Reformina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian land in Hawaiian hands.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:19:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaulalani Tauotaha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2617. For far too long, business and financial interests have destroyed our land, water, and way of life, forcing most Hawaiians like my brother to move away from their homeland, raising their keiki away from their ‘ohana here in Hawai‘i. As a kānaka Hawai‘i, I am currently unable to afford my own home. I work at a kula, that teaches keiki on a daily basis the importance of ‘āina, yet those who’s kūpunas bones are not of this ‘āina are able to take space, not give back, raid and pillage our lands. For all the work I do for the lāhui, I do not qualify for Hawaiian homes, I do not have other options but to work hard and rent my home. SB2617 will begin the shift to restore what has been taken from us.

Mahalo

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:19:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meleana Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:20:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimiko beltran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

More than 200 years ago, outsiders settled on the Hawaiian Islands and didn't look back. The natives who resided here once were strong, warriors, who were stripped of the love and wholehearted appreciation for the aina. Despite being repressed, there are many generations who came after who continue to fight for their homeland. Justice will be served for this land and everyone who built Hawai'i up to it's lush and cultured place on this planet. Hawai'i is like no other, let's keep it that way.

LATE LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:21:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jahndy Navarro-Castro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian lands in the hands of its people. Selling to foreigners for an extra buck while us native Hawaiians are driven to homelessness is pilau. Hawaii will be completely lost in history if this continues.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:21:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aka Rodriguez-Herring	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's hard living on the island when competing with foreigners buying land/properties. Especially with living from paycheck to paycheck trying to survive in Hawai'i.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:22:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleo Pa'ele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou, as a kanaka maoli born and raised here in Hawai'i I wholeheartedly support SB2617. Hawaiians and locals will benefit greatly (in time) when this is passed. Hawaiians cannot afford to live in a place that is their birthright along with non Hawaiians who have lived here for generations. We must follow suit with other states who understand the ramifications of this bill. I am saddened and disappointed with our attorney general who does not approve of this bill. Ms. Lopez is not Hawaiian and not raised here and do not have generational ties and ohana in Hawai'i therefore making her "out of touch" with our cultural values and needs. Hopefully she will listen to her constituents and the people she serves. Thank you for your time.

Mahalo, Kaleo Pa'ele

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:24:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Paik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian it makes me angry that I am unable to buy a home in my own home because I am competing with people who have no connection to this 'aina and are buying property only for a profit.

LATE LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:25:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharla Kalei Kahale-Miner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii Legislators,

I have concerns on this addressing issue; STOP foreigners from buying up Hawaii Property; like the potential impact on our local housing affordability, cultural preservation, or community well-being.

The impact of foreigners paying in cash for houses indeed affect local housing markets, leading to lower inventory for locals. This dynamic contributes to increased home prices, making it challenging for locals to afford homes, potentially leading to higher demand for mortgages and, in turn, pushing interest rates up. This situation forces some locals to consider moving out of state in search of more affordable housing options.

"Priced out of paradise"

Being priced out of paradise is a common challenge in areas with high demand and soaring property values. Many individuals find it difficult to afford homes in such sought-after locations, leading them to explore alternative, more affordable housing options elsewhere.

The phenomenon of foreigners buying property in large numbers, often with cash, can be perceived as a form of economic invasion or land grab. This trend may impact local residents by driving up prices and limiting housing availability. It raises questions about the balance between the interests of foreign investors and the housing needs of local communities.

The influx of foreign buyers and the resulting impact on housing in Hawaii can indeed raise concerns about the potential erosion of the state's cultural and community identity. The changing demographics and economic dynamics may contribute to a shift in the social fabric, prompting discussions about preserving the unique character of Hawaii amidst these challenges.

Hawaii is its people. The Spirit of Aloha is deeply rooted in the pople of Hawaii. While economic chancges occur, the essance of Hawaii's identity is fundamentally tied to its residents and the warmth, kindness, and community spirit they embody through aloha. Preserving this cultural foundation remains crucial for maintaining the trues essence of Hawaii.

Mahalo nui loa,

Sharla Kaleihua Kahale-Miner

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:25:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE **LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela English	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I'm Anela English, 23 years old and from Hana Maui. I am in support of bill SB2617.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:25:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luana Sepulvida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a concerned resident of Hawaii, I am writing to strongly oppose the idea of allowing foreigners to purchase land in our beautiful state. Hawaii's unique culture, fragile ecosystem, and limited land availability make it imperative that we safeguard our resources for the benefit of our residents and future generations. Allowing unrestricted foreign ownership of land threatens to undermine the fabric of our community and compromise our collective well-being in several key ways.

First and foremost, Hawaii is not just a collection of properties; it is our home. For generations, our ancestors have stewarded these lands, preserving their natural beauty and cultural significance. Allowing foreigners to buy land without proper oversight risks turning our sacred spaces into commodities for profit, eroding the sense of belonging and identity that is intrinsic to our way of life.

Furthermore, Hawaii's limited land availability exacerbates the impact of foreign ownership. With only a finite amount of land accessible for development and habitation, unrestricted foreign investment drives up real estate prices, making it increasingly unaffordable for local residents to purchase homes and establish roots in their own communities. This trend not only threatens the socioeconomic diversity of Hawaii but also contributes to the displacement of indigenous peoples and long-standing residents, further fracturing the social fabric of our state.

Additionally, the environmental consequences of unchecked foreign ownership cannot be overlooked. Hawaii is home to fragile ecosystems and unique biodiversity found nowhere else on Earth. Allowing foreigners to purchase land without regard for conservation or sustainability risks irreversible damage to our natural resources, threatening the delicate balance of our ecosystems and compromising the resilience of our island habitats in the face of climate change.

In conclusion, the proposal to permit foreigners to buy land in Hawaii poses significant risks to our cultural heritage, socioeconomic stability, and environmental sustainability. As stewards of this land, it is our responsibility to prioritize the interests of our local communities and protect the integrity of Hawaii for generations to come. I urge you to reject this misguided proposal and instead enact policies that prioritize the well-being of Hawaii's residents and preserve our unique way of life.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely, Luana Sepulveda

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:26:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamalu Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Kamalu Neal and I was born and raised on the island of Oahu. I believe that residents of the State of Hawaii should be the only people allow to buy and own land here. We can't allow foreigner buyers to own anymore land here. If we do it will have a negative impact on the families here on the islands as well as future generations.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:27:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desiree	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I opposed Bill SB2617 because as someone who was born and raised in Hawaii. I continue to see and hear about foreigners buying property or homes in Hawaii not to even occupy it. They purchase the land or home and rent it out at ridiculous prices that is Hawaii residence can't afford with the already existent sky rocketing cost of living and the income does not align. People are working 2-3 jobs just to support themselves or family. People who rent or even are able to purchase a home in Hawaii have to live with family or even rent out other parts of their home just to afford their mortgage. When trying to purchase a home here we are constantly outbid by foreigners that can offer CASH. This is not right. I oppose this bill

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:27:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE **LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ainsley Rayhawk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii has too long been unable to prosper without the interference or forced reliance on other powers. The native people are overdue the rights to their own lives, lands, and heritage.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:28:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nolan Markpol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Nolan Markpol. I am 16 years old and I am in support of SB2617 because I want to be able to grow up on this island without worrying about whether I can afford a house to live in. I also don't want to leave my home and go up to the mainland. I have many uncles, aunties, and cousins who moved away because they couldn't afford to live down here anymore. They left so they could go a day without being scared not knowing if they could afford food or pay the house bills. When there are no locals left in Hawaii, our home will not be home. We will be priced out of paradise. I would respect it if you guys take the time and realize that all of us will be priced out of paradise. So when will you guys realize this could be you one day too and also how would you feel knowing that your kids may not be able to afford to live here.

Mahalo,

Nolan Markpol

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:28:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harmony	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to protect our housing market and our culture from outside influences/investors. Efforts should be made to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:28:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Garrett Kuwada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. I feel foreign entities should also include US citizens who do not have generational ties to Hawai'i. Haole (foreign to Hawai'i) investors from the 49 US states should not be able to purchase homes/land ahead of Hawaiians and those waiting decades and centuries for Hawaiian homelands. Wealthy Americans not from Hawai'i should be limited to purchasing only what an average HAWAIIAN or LOCAL resident of Hawai'i owns and should NOT be able to purchase large parcels of land or property for investment or personal use.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:29:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Irons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it may concern

I am Michael Irons. I am 17 and I am in support of SB2617, because by stopping foreigners from purchasing property in Hawaii, the housing market inflation will slow down, resulting in more people native to Hawaii being able to buy or rent homes. Every day more and more people native to Hawaii are having to move away from their home because they can't afford the exorbitant price for the homes and rent in the state. By allowing the housing prices to rise and causing families with Hawaiian ancestry or lineage to move away the state will lose its identity, it will lose the people who will truly take care of their home. This is why I hope that the Legislature is able to pass SB2617 so that the native people of Hawaii, the people who truly care for the islands, can continue to live in the place they call home.

Sincerely,

Michael Irons

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:31:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthias Bernard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha no,

I support this bill! Too many of our own people, Native Hawaiian and Island born residents, are being bought out of their own homes. Please allow this bill to pass in order to empower our people here in the state to stay here and provide homes for our future generations. What is considered unconstitutional is allowing foreign powers and organizations to take hold of lands that have belonged to families for generations! We should empower our people. We should not be leaving our people with scraps, justice for our Hawai'i!

In Luke 18:1-5 is a powerful parable about an unrighteous judge who gives justice to a persistent widow only because he is bothered. Now although Christ concluded the parable by asking if the Son of Man will find faith on earth, the parable still holds true to the human problem we have today. Our lawmakers need to be invested in the justice of THE PEOPLE, not just their people. We are the persistent widow coming to you, our lawmakers and government officials, where is our justice? Do not neglect us and push us aside any longer, we are here now, we are persistent, we are the people you vowed to serve. I support this bill, and I pray that you will too.

Mahalo nui,

Pr. Matthias Bernard

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:32:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vikena Ho'olulu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Vikena Ho'olulu and I am a junior at Castle High School. I am in support of SB2617 because I want to be able to raise my children the way I was raised and how my parents were raised on these islands. To leave my grandchildren in a safe and giving environment. I grew up going back and forth from Waikane to a bunch of other places around the island. It was hard moving from place to place but Waikane always felt like home, kids need that kind of feeling. Now I ask the legislature, wouldn't you want to feel at home?

Mahalo.

Vikena Ho'olulu

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:33:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailana Hamili	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that this bill has been long overdue. I hope that this bill passes so the Hawaiian people can have land for agricultural purposes, families can have homes, and generations of the Hawaiian population will have land to call theirs.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:34:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Logan Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Logan Thompson, 16 and I support bill SB2617 because I think that it's important to help keep the next generation at home and also so they can learn how to take care of the aina. Ever since foreigners came down to Hawaii to buy houses, they have made them all unaffordable for us and our keki. None of the future generations will be able to grow up in the place they were born in, or learn about their culture. A lot of foreigners come to Hawaii with more money than the locals and overpay for most of the houses that are for sale down here in Hawaii. I feel that this bill should be passed so that we can keep the people native to Hawaii at home and so they don't have to move away to the mainland. I have some family members that left Hawaii due to the high cost of living here. I believe that Brenton Awa is doing something that should have been done years ago so that we can keep and call Hawaii, Hawaii, the ALOHA state. Please pass this bill so I can raise my family here.

Mahalo,

Logan Thompson

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:34:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brienna Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of SB2617. For too long we as Hawaiians have been taken from and given the short end of the stick. It's time we have a fighting chance to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands, after all, it's the people that make the place. It's time we stop allowing those who have no ties to this 'āina to come here and leave us as the "odd man out" just because they want to "live in paradise." We want to live here too, we want to stay and be able to afford to stay where are roots are rather than leaving it all behind. There is no true Hawai'i without Hawaiians and no true Hawaiian culture without those who have native ties here.

Eō!

Mahalo for your time.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:35:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shari Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2617. For far too long, business and financial interests have destroyed our land, water, and way of life, forcing most Hawaiians to leave Hawai'i or struggle to survive in our own homeland. The mindset of profit over people has gotten entirely out of hand and we will not stand for it any longer. SB2617 is just the first step in restoring pono to some of the hewa that has plagued our people for over 200 years. He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka. If you don't know what that means then you are also part of that hewa.

Mahalo

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:35:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerome kuala	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is Jerome Kuala I'm a resident of Maui I hope this bill passes just cause it ensures keeping our people and our future generations here in the state of Hawaii, and not being forced out due to high property cost of living and having a better chance of owning a home.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:35:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daguzan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill in order to protect local residents and native Hawaiian populations from being priced out of Hawaii. We see too many local families moving to the mainland because they can not afford to live in Hawai'i due to a very expensive real estate market. Hawaii needs the state to support his people

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:35:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rylee Brooke Kamahele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Kanaka Maoli, I am deeply concerned about the future of Hawai'i as my identity, my spirit, and my future are intrinsically tied to the 'āina that has nurtured my ancestors for generations. I am writing today in strong **support** of S.B. 2617.

The rapid development and sale of our lands to foreign entities have not only displaced our communities but have also led to the degradation of our natural environment. The poisoning of our land and water, the alarming decline of our endemic and endangered wildlife, and the rampant overdevelopment are clear indicators that the current trajectory is unsustainable and unjust. These actions are not only an affront to our way of life but are direct violations of our kuleana to protect and preserve Hawai'i for future generations.

As a Native Hawaiian, the prospect of not being able to afford to live in my homeland is both heart-wrenching and unjust. This is the reality that my generation has to face. The very essence of who we are as Kanaka Maoli is being threatened by the relentless pursuit of profit over people. Our elders, our Kupuna, wait in vain for promises of homestead homes, while many of our people face homelessness and economic hardship. How can we stand by and watch as our lands are sold to the highest bidder, further exacerbating the struggles of our people?

The damage inflicted upon our islands since colonization and gentrification demands immediate action. Hawai'i does not need more development; it needs restoration and reconciliation with its people and its environment. S.B. 2617 presents an opportunity to halt the sale of our lands to foreigners, ensuring that the well-being of our people is prioritized above all else.

To the esteemed members of this legislature, I implore you to consider the long-term impacts of your decisions. We must break the cycle of exploitation and disregard for the well-being of Hawai'i and its people. Supporting "The Long Overdue Bill" is a step towards rectifying and safeguarding the future of Hawai'i for generations to come.

In closing, I ask you to listen to the voices of the youth, the voices of the future. I strongly support S.B. 2617 and urge you to do the same.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:36:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Millerd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm in strong support of SB2617. As a young adult born and raised on Oahu and hoping to live here the rest of my life, this bill protects us locals who want to continue calling Hawaii home. The land in Hawaii is limited and the residents of Hawaii are constantly pushed to the side by foreign buyers with bigger budgets than any of us can compete with. A bill like this will help keep property in the hands of locals and keep prices lower overall. As a young person on the hunt for a house and potential farmlands, the current prices are just ridiculous. I can't imagine affording a place if the prices continue to go up.

We keep talking about needing more affordable housing and expanding our local agriculture, so let's ensure there is fairly priced land prioritized for our residents. Hawaii's people feel neglected and many feel like they have no option but to move to cheaper states. Keep our properties in the hands of our people or those that will serve our people, not those who don't even live here. Affordability and lack of land are issues that keep coming up, and we need action now.

Mahalo,

Lindsey Millerd

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:36:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chaunty Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Bill SB2617. As a Native Hawaiian, it's hard to see so much of our people leaving Hawai'i, the place of our ancestors, because they can't afford to live and reside here to raise our future generations. There is no Hawai'i, without Hawaiians! Foreigners constantly buying out real estate then raising the price of homes and the cost of rent just to make a profit is unethical and unnecessary. My family is on the Hawaiian Homes waitlist, and as others who have gone before us, who knows if we will see a lease before our lifetime is up. And even that, just a lease, is ridiculous. Entities like DHHL and Bishop Estate were entrusted to help Hawaiians, yet they give limited leases, if even that. On Hawai'i Island we've seen so much land go to foreigners, which was not the will or purpose of the land they were entrusted. No one cares to give our people the land or even a chance. When will the Hawaiians of Hawai'i become a priority for this land where our roots and our blood come from? So many hard working natives are struggling to make ends meet because the cost to live in our own home is so high. We can barely afford to purchase a house or land to raise families in. All whilst paying ridiculous rents to foreigners because they come and take. My household makes over \$100,000 a year, but we still can't afford to buy a house, and go head to head with foreigners that come in and overbid us. Think about that. And think about this, "There is no Hawai'i, without Hawaiians!" See the good that other countries with this implemented has done and how the people of the land have gained! Please do what you were elected to do, and support our people, and support this bill.

Mahalo

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:36:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Kekipi-Aurio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am a native Hawaiian that believes that enough is enough. In order for the residents and natives of this land to remain seeded and connected to our land we must institute regulations that prohibit foreigners and investors from buying up all the land, solely for their benefit. If we want to see Hawaiians and others alike still living here in our islands in the next generations to come, we must act now! Please move this legislation forward and help to make actions today that will count for generations to come!

Humbly submitted,

Andrea Kekipi-Aurio

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:37:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caridad Leiva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill.

The Chinese nationals have bought up all the Agricultural Lands around me in the Waianae area. Making it impossible for local families to own property.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:38:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Thai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The rising costs of housing in Hawaii is due to many different factors. One of the main one would be the fact the foreigners are buying out all potential housings that are meant for the citizens of Hawaii for the use of profit. This needs to stop if Hawaii is to ever have hope of creating more affordable housing for locals.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:38:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanek Rucynski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

One simple sentence....Priced out of our own home!

It's too easy. Don't let this happen!

LATE LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:39:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peggy Kwi-Suk Hong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a low-income resident of Hawai`i I support this bill. Housing costs are outrageous, and the only reason I found affordable housing was because of the generosity of a friend. We need to stop driving up prices and make housing available and affordable for Kānaka and kama`āina!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:40:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dalel Robins-Seabury	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2617. For far too long, business and financial interests have destroyed our land, water, and way of life, forcing most Hawaiians to leave Hawai'i or struggle to survive in our own homeland. The mindset of profit over people has gotten entirely out of hand and we will not stand for it any longer. SB2617 is just the first step in restoring pono to some of the hewa that has plagued our people for over 200 years. He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka.

Mahalo

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:40:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luna Courtois	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's already enough of a struggle to afford housing in Hawaii. Ive lived on the north shore of Oahu my entire life, 90% of the beach front houses sit empty over 80% of the year. Since Covid, our entire community has shifted, from once being familiar faces, friends, and family everywhere, now is a bunch of random people I've never seen before who bought houses during Covid. That don't say Hi, and think they're better than everyone. It's always the same story. They buy their over 1milliln dollar house, live here for a few months to few years, then move away, either renting their house out on air bnb, or the monthly price for long term is something outrageous like \$7-\$20k a month. OR, they sell the house for double of what they bought it for. So many of my friends I grew up with can't afford to live here anymore and are having to move far away.

The housing crisis is taking away our community. The north shore, along with majority of Hawai'i is becoming an empty shell.

Beautiful on the outside, but empty on the inside.

If something doesn't change, there's gonna be No more people who love the land and culture, no more people of Hawai'i, but instead a bunch of people who only love Hawai'i for what it looks like. Who don't understand WHY it's such a special place not only for its looks but the love the people of Hawai'i share to each other.

Please help, dont let Hawai'i become another California. Thats where it's headed, FAST.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:40:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as it will not allow foreign investors to buy out the people of Hawaii! I want my children and generations to come to have a chance to purchase their own homes!

It's about time someone is standing up for the people of Hawaii!! Mahalo Mr Awa!!!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:40:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Penner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Restricting foreign buyers from buying residential properties which are almost solely used as investments or part time residences would be beneficial to the average Hawaii resident looking to purchase a home. This has been done in many countries, and Canada comes to mind specifically. For a while a 20%+ tax was imposed on home purchases by Foreigners which did equalize the market and create some relief to local Canadians, but it looks like after many years of that strategy it turns out they needed even more restrictions.

The Hawaii Legislature and it's respective Legislators are in place to protect the interests of the Residents and Citizens OF HAWAII. I cannot think of a good reason to vote against this bill when so many local familes are struggling to have their basic housing needs met, and any potential chance at the security of home ownership. I would be interested to dive into the motives any member of the Legistaive body who (during a Governor declared "state of emergency" regarding housing crisis) would choose to cast a vote essentially advocating for property ownership access to citizens of not only a different state, but a different country.

Here is a link to Canada's latest strategy to deal with their housing shortage crisis in regard to foreign purchases:

Prohibitions on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/P-25.2/page-1.html>

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:40:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Tanouye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony in hopes that we as a community can think of our ohana and our children's ohana in the future to come. I feel that this bill will allow us a community to provide housing to the hardworking families so that we don't have to move off island and look for new venues to provide for our loved one. I believe this bill will be a huge step forward into building hope back into our communities.

thank you,

Travis Tanouye

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:40:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaikaina kenike allen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in to support this bill. Being that so many native Hawaiians cannot afford housing on their native lands I believe that it is crucial to pass this bill. As the housing market continues to increase year after year and the amount of native Hawaiians having to move off island also increases we are seeing an uptick of foreign entities buying property in Hawaii... not only are people moving here, but people are also buying houses for vacation rentals and to host Airbnb which means that either people are taking up space to only be on island, one or two months out of the year or we're inviting more tourists into the islands without seeing any of that money being brought in through tourism or being fed back into local communities as it goes straight into the pockets of the homeowners. I for one believe it is highly unethical to have systems that benefit those who only perpetuate more crises on this land and having systems where we can protect the local communities, or even incentivize a tax for those who are foreign to this to obtain property, would be a beautiful step in the right direction of protecting native and local community.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:41:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Mahoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the owner of a local Hawaiian business deeply invested in the community, I wholeheartedly support the bill that prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in our State, except under certain circumstances. This measure is crucial for safeguarding the integrity and stability of our local real estate market.

Allowing unrestricted foreign acquisition of real estate poses significant risks to our community. It can lead to inflated property prices, making it increasingly difficult for local residents and businesses to afford homes and commercial spaces. Moreover, unchecked foreign investment can result in speculative behavior, destabilizing our neighborhoods and communities.

By implementing this bill, we are taking proactive steps to ensure that our State's real estate remains accessible and affordable to our residents and businesses. Requiring foreign principals to register their ownership of real property and mandating buyers to affirm their non-foreign status adds an essential layer of transparency and accountability to the process.

Furthermore, the authorization for forfeiture of unlawfully acquired real property sends a clear message that we will not tolerate any attempts to circumvent these regulations. This deterrent will help prevent exploitation of loopholes and ensure compliance with the law.

Overall, this bill aligns with our shared goals of fostering a vibrant and sustainable local economy while preserving the unique character and identity of our communities. I urge our legislators to support this crucial measure for the well-being and prosperity of our State.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:41:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
matthew hanamaikai-puu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Matthew Hanamaikai-Puu and I am 17 years old. I am in support of SB2617 because according to Brenton Awa before he went into office, during the pandemic housing prices jumped up \$400,000 more. This shows how housing prices rose and are still rising due to foreigners. According to CBS “news rampant development, an influx of mainlanders moving to the state, and growing tourism price them out of the islands” People native to Hawaii suffer from homelessness due to high prices of housing. Passing this bill will help people who are native to the land get their inherited land. How would you feel if your kids became homeless or had to move because of the foreigners buying your land before your kids?

Mahalo,

Matthew Hanamaikai-Puu

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:42:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaimie Rego Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jaimie Rego Jr and I am a native hawaiian living on the island of Oahu. As a native hawaiian, it is painful and heartbreaking to see fellow hawaiians/locals being pushed out of Hawaii due to high cost of living. As a middle class citizen making over 100k a year, it us still extremely difficult for me to own a home in Hawaii without having to pinch pennies or having my other half work full time as well. We are seeing foreign investors come here to buy up land and homes, while locals like myself cannot afford to get by. I support this bill whole heartedly, and hope that this bill will allow local/native hawaiians a chance to stay home and buy AFFORDABLE homes. Mahalo for your time.

Jaimie Rego Jr

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:42:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kia'ikalele Sonognini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that native Hawaiians shouldn't have to leave their home land because of how expensive it is to survive in the place our ancestors did. People who have no connections to the land and only want to buy land to make money is wrong. It's pushing out family's who've lived there for generations. I believe the Hawaii lands should stay in Hawaiian hands with my whole heart. I 100% agree with the petition to not allow foreigners to Hawaii to buy land.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:45:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kilani Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kilani Dela Cruz and I am in support of this bill. Due to the rise in rent and food many hawaiian and local families who were born and raised on the island of Hawaii can't afford to live here. So many local families had no choice but to move away because we just can't afford it. I still can't seem to wrap my head around the fact that minimum wage is only at \$12. Imagine a family who has only one parent working 40hrs a week, making only \$12. They gross \$1920 and will probably only bring home \$1600-\$1700 monthly after tax. Then they have to take out another \$500-\$600 for food. Then rent is another \$1200. There's no way a family can live off of that amount of income. It breaks my heart because the rise in rent continuously goes up every year. Let alone, the price a parent will have to pay for child care is way to expensive to afford. My son is only 3 years old, by the time my son becomes an adult, he won't be able to afford a place of his own. Let alone, he probably won't be able to buy a house because it'll be too expensive. The least you folks can do by helping the people of Hawaii is by allowing this bill to be passed. Think about our keiki and all the children that come after those children.

Mahalo,

Kilani Dela Cruz

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:45:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, as a citizen of the Hawaiian kingdom of the state of Hawaii that has been illegally occupied over 131 years, I, Samson JK Aki, Stand In support of the "long overdue bill" SB2617

For too long has our beautiful state of Hawaii been mistreated misused and taken advantage of by foreign dignitaries and foreign people who do not have our land in their best interest. For too long, our land has been led to military forces that have not been good stewards of our land so many different locations of Hawaii have been poisoned by chemicals so many people of our Hawaii have been poisoned by the leaking of fuel and other chemicals.

most recently, our beloved home of Lahaina has been leveled by a national tragedy, and still no real support from the government, or from those who promised promises have been seen. The most support has come from grassroots and other individuals who care for Lahaina, the same way that we do.

If we continue to let dignitaries these availabilities to our land, then Hawaii will no longer be the land that it should be.

I strongly urge you to please hear the voices of the people, hear the voices of our land, as she is crying for help while foreign dignitaries poison her.

Mahalo nui loa for your time

ua mau kēia o ka aina i ka pono o Hawaii

LATE LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:47:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melia Leslie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill SB2617. Outside demand is most definitely destroying the housing market. I worked in Real Estate a few years and had so many calls from people in Canada wanting to buy vacation homes here to use for vacation rentals, meanwhile I was working with local clients just trying to get in to the housing market any way they could with what little money they had. It was very disheartening! This was one of the reasons I left real estate. Please I urge you to support this bill. Thank you.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:47:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Hastings	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing to voice my full support for this bill to begin restricting outside buyers from purchasing real estate in Hawaii. As someone born and raised here, it has been devastating to watch the price of home continue to go up- always seeming to be just out of reach for myself, wife & 3 children. There is a constant uncertainty in our life, nervous that our landlord will sell their home or increase rent and leave us scrambling. We continue to hear stories of people being out bid by outsiders. It is not a matter of the number of homes available, we can build all we want, but it will do nothing to stop the forcing out of local people, Hawaiians, and so many working and middle class people- unless we enact restrictions on WHO can purchase real estate.

Our average wages are lower than so many places, yet we continue to market our real estate to people outside of Hawaii who have the financial means to purchase here, even if they plan on not living here full time. How many units sit empty most of the year? It is beyond frustrating and it is changing the fabric and character of our neighborhoods and communities for the worse. Please, put local people first- we are getting crushed by the cost of living and housing prices. If we wish to keep Hawaii Hawaii, we must pass this bill.

I would love nothing more than to own a home here in this place I grew up, be able to build wealth and have something to pass on to my children. Please, put people over profit- the people need to be empowered with the ability to own their own home. This helps create upward mobility and people that are invested in their communities. What we are currently seeing is a deterioration of our communities as our homes are being sold out from under us to people from elsewhere. The people feel undervalued, unwanted, forgotten. Our state will not survive on its current trajectory and widening gap between the rich, the working, and the middle classes.

Please do this for the local people.

Mahalo,

Christian Hastings

Nu'uaniu resident

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:48:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Keliikuli-Kennedy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2617. 100% LONG OVERDUE.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:49:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joni Poland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian lands in local hands. The cost of living here is already expensive as it is. Let's stop driving our local's out of Hawaii and really build housing that is truly affordable to lower-class citizens. People who grew up here, would love to retire here, and I am one of those people.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:50:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Uilani Shimabukuro and I am 17 years old. I support SB2617 because all the people that were born and raised here are worried that they might have to leave the island due to high prices of housing. My family can barely afford owning a house, I want to try to help put some money down but it would probably take me years to do because of minimum wage. Most of my friends' family moved to the mainland because they got "priced out of paradise", the mainland is way more cheaper than the islands. Foreigners come here with a lot of money and just buy property like nothing. The percentage of the people that were born and raised here in Hawaii is decreasing every year because the prices are too high for them. I really think that the government should pass this bill because this is a problem for the people of Hawaii, we want to be able to stay in the state we were born in!

Mahalo,

Uilani Shimabukuro

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:50:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Casco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of this Bill. This is our oppurtunity to stop the purchase of Hawaiian lands that could be used for the local people of Hawaii.

My family has been here for generations, with my great grand parents immigrating from the Phillipines to work the plantations. Most of us have a variety of ethnic backgrounds that have helped to shape Hawaii's diverse culture and uniqueness. We grew up with respect, admiration and love for this place, it's people and Hawaiians, whose lands have been exploited for profit for too long.

My generation, our kids, grandkids and future generations will no longer be able to afford to live here if foreign entities, who have no Aloha for Hawaii and it's people, are still allowed to buy realestate at will. This does not benefit Hawaii, its people or the economy. Large corporations and foreign enterprises reep the benefit with profits leaving Hawaii.

I am in support of this bill so that future generations of local people can stay here, thrive, and continue to take care of Hawaii.

Aloha

Kawika Casco

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:51:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Bill SB2617. As a 40 year old native Hawaiian, born and raised in Oahu, now living in Kona, I I have seen the reality of what it means to be a native Hawaiian resident of the state of Hawaii. Simply put there's nothing being done for the native people of Hawaii. To be faced with the decision of moving away to somewhere more affordable, because there aren't enough jobs in Hawaii that pay enough to be able to own a home here is just unacceptable. Instead, Our government allows foreigners to come here and purchase commercial and residential land, raising the cost of property taxes, making it more unattainable for natives to own property. Hawaii is our home our reality. It is not a playground for the rich but we seem to put them in the forefront 100% of the time. When will our government do the right thing and have the backs of the native people in here in Hawaii, and put us first. When will enough be enough? There's not enough income here to be able to purchase these homes at these prices. What is the solution? build apartment structures 3, 4, or 5 stories high and call it low income housing so that we can put the local Families who can't afford to buy a home? Meanwhile, the wealthy live near the oceans, live on the mountains on our land. While you build structures to cram families in boxes into the sky. And you call it a solution, and you think this is doing something about it? I do not agree If you want to do something about it pass bill SB2617. If you don't, then clearly you do not want to do something about it. Give our people a chance, instead of forcing them out. Give us hope, make us a priority no matter what. Invest in our own people. I strongly support SB2617. Thank you.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:51:41 PM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blake Daoang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am 16 years of age, and I am in support of SB2617 because the housing prices currently are just insane, my family cannot afford normal housing, and we have to opt for public housing, while some foreigners buy up the land and property here. I care about this bill because I want those native to Hawaii to be able to afford housing in Hawaii. I want to continue living here. I want to be able to afford to get a home here. I want to be able to see my keiki live here. I want to be able to see my family and I grow old here. I want to be able to see that my homeland keeps its charm because the people make Hawaii, Hawaii. I know that many of us would appreciate it if SB2617 got approved.

Sincerely,

Blake Daoang

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:52:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Rivas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Is support this bill because housing for locals is limited and property prices have sky rocketed. Locals are being priced out of their homes and relocating stateside or become houseless. We need to keep the land and properties in local hands.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:52:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iryne Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a local born and raised on the Big Island, it's heartbreaking to see the prices on homes. The million dollar properties all over the island. I work a full time job to provide for my family and it looks like we won't be able to buy a home until prices go down or if foreigners continue to buy properties and making us locals move to the mainland. I want my keiki to be raised here where I was born and raised. The culture lives on with my future keiki and I will do anything for us to stay here and not be pushed to move to the mainland!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:52:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Avelin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This testimony is in SUPPORT of Bill SB2617.

As a native Hawaiian, I have witnessed decades of injustice that have been brought upon our people and our islands. We have been raped of our land and resources by politicians and foreign and domestic investors and corporations for too long.

The Hawai'i state government has failed our people and need to make this right. Most of Hawai'i's government officials preach Aloha but do not practice the TRUE meaning of it.

It's time that our government officials do better. The people of Hawai'i and our native Hawaiians DESERVE justice, aloha and healing. This can only start if officials have integrity and put our people, the people that pay your salary, FIRST.

Put an END to foreign ownership. Choose the people of Hawai'i FIRST. Failure to do so will cause an increase in locals being displaced/houseless, which you are well aware of. But do most of you care enough to do what's right?

Start now. Invest in the future of Hawai'i, in our keiki, our native people and the future generations, by supporting and passing SB2617.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:52:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erleen Ka'ula Oguma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this for the future of my or our keiki. No longer want prices out of paradise because those from other states or foreign countries buy out our land to have somewhere just to vacation at. While us here are struggling to find a forever home with land or properties being sold to non Hawai'i residents first.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:53:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dehven kaawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

More aina for us to cherish and restore. We don't need vacations rentals and personal greedy interest and big companies. We should focus on making ourselves more self sustained. More development means more dry streams. It is already corrupt as it is all the streams we grew up in are all dry and it's such a sad thing to see. Think about what's better for the people and not money. You all say we trying but yet still sell to these foreigners. What about the people that belong here. The oiwi.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:54:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Valhuerdi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2617 because natives and locals cannot afford to own or even rent their own homes. I oppose this because millionaires are coming and purchasing up the land, making it more expensive for locals and then not even living in them. Hawaiians and locals are being displaced everyday because foreigners are buying land for corporate greed to turn into vacation rentals that then more foreigners can come and enjoy instead of the local people who cannot even afford to move out of their generational homes into their own homes. I am a 27 year old born and raised local, I am trying to move on in my life, start a family, and be independent and because of the housing crisis we are constant being faced with, I cannot afford to move my partner and I out of my families home. natives and locals are stuck. We are left with no option but to either pile in as many families into one home or completely uproot our lives, culture, families, and friends to move out into foreign lands. It's inhumane what's being done to natives and locals. We deserve to be heard, respected and represented to the fullest and right now this bill completely will ruin that chance for locals to thrive in their own home. Please do not pass this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:54:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Doyen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For too long foreign intaties have been able to buy up the available land and properties. Many of these are just left vacant and further drive up the prices for the few places remaining. As someone who lives here, it's growing more and more difficult to find available and affordable housing. This long over due bill feels like my only shot to stay on the Aina I love. Please support the people and pass this bill!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:54:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tera Kaholooa-Moody	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a native Hawaiian, born and raised on the island of Hawai'i and I fully support this bill being passed and placed into action. There has been and continues to be a serious housing crisis in Hawai'i that is only getting worse. Native Hawaiians are continuing to be stripped of our land and ability to afford land/property in Hawai'i. This is mainly caused by the inflation and higher bids on homes by foreigners who easily outbid native people on home/land offers. Most often these foreigners don't even live or take residency here in Hawai'i, instead they purchase homes for vacation rentals and use it as a source of income. I've seen this first hand as my mother is a long time realtor on the Big Island and there have been many times where she sees local people lose out on purchasing homes because they've been outbid by foreigners who don't even intend to live in the homes they are purchasing. A lot of people in my generation (30-40 year olds) can no longer afford to purchase homes or property in Hawai'i due to the inflation of the housing prices. More locals are moving out of state because they simply cannot survive in Hawai'i. We work 2-3 jobs and still can't afford to own property/land. Please do the right thing and pass this bill to help Hawaiians stay in Hawai'i. We cannot continue to allow foreigners to own more land in Hawai'i than our own people!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:55:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josiah	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I reside in Kaneohe, where the dream of providing a stable home for our children is being overshadowed by an average home price of \$750,000. This legislation represents a beacon of hope, ensuring that our children can grow up in the communities that shaped us, surrounded by the culture and people we hold dear.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:55:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darrylboy Cobb-Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Darrylboy Cobb-Adams and I am 17 years old. I am in support of SB2617 bill because after covid the cost of homes jumped up by 400,000\$. With this, most locals are forced to move out of state because they cannot afford to buy a house or even afford to pay bills for houses that went from \$100 to \$500 or from \$350,000 to \$1,000,000 just to buy a house that is in a place that you were born and raised in or native to hawaii. Before you know it the foreigners are going to buy all the houses in Hawaii and there would be no affordable homes and nobody native to Hawaii will be living in Hawaii. And without native people in Hawaii there would be no Hawaii and Hawaii would just turn into another place like the mainland. I know that people native to hawaii would love to buy a house in Hawaii and I would too but if more and more foreigners buy more and more land and houses there would be none left for us. Please pass this bill!

Mahalo,

Darrylboy Cobb-Adams

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:56:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makana Contrades	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am hard working native Hawaiian on the island of Kaua'i. I support this bill to be passed immediately. As a hardworking individual from the age of 16 most of my family and myself still have not been able to purchase any type of land or home as the rising costs in Hawaii has not made it possible to do so. I asked please please to stop all foreign land and home purchases as our native people are being priced out of paradise.

Respectfully,

makana Contrades 2/6/2024

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:56:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelani White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill 1000000%.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:57:26 PM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberleigh Robinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

<p>Aloha,</p> <p>My name is Kimberleigh Robinson. I am a resident here on Oahu and like most, I have struggled to purchase any home and/or condo which would be my first time ever having a mortgage. The prices of homes and condos are outrageously high, coming up with even 3-5% down is unmanageable and for some unreachable. Even though my husband and I both have good jobs. When we were in the market, we were immediately beat out because of either cash offers or a way higher bid. The area in which we rent, which is also the area we were trying to buy, we have seen so many of the condos sold and bought by those who are clearly not residents, in which, not too much time after, were either turned around and sold again at a way higher price or rented out at ridiculous monthly prices.</p> <p>This is something that is not sustainable for local residents and the local economy. Being "Priced out of Paradise" phrase has never been more fitting of an explanation as to why locals are leaving. Yet our local government continue to build luxury condos that in majority sit empty, wondering how there is still a "shortage" in housing.</p> <p>This bill has been the first ever to be introduced that puts Hawaii locals FIRST! Why do foreigners have constitutional rights when they are exactly that...Foreign? They are not citizens to our nation or non residents who are not local citizens to our state? How would that be any different than UH charging residential student fees and non residential student fees? Shouldn't that be unconstitutional? Isn't that what the AG is trying to argue that it should be fair to foreign buyers? No. Residents of the state need to be put FIRST and should benefit the most!</p> <p>This bill is truly what local residents want and this bill needs to pass. I vote in favor for this bill to be passed into law. 20 other states do not find it unconstitutional and neither should Hawaii.</p>

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:57:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chaz kini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We Hawaiians need this bill to pass for our future generations of native Hawaiians to be able to have a better future, and not be bought out by foreigners.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:57:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Season Baldauf	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Along with my ‘ohana, we are in **STRONG SUPPORT** this bill to stop foreigners from purchasing property across of Hawai‘i!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:58:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Crumpton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill as someone who was born and raised here witnessing a great migration of Hawaii families being forced to move away from the islands as they are being priced out of paradise. I have also witnessed firsthand so many out of state buyers purchasing homes that have got up for a sale in the last handful of years because local families cannot afford the \$1M+ cost for an average single family home.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:59:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Egdamin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:59:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayna Liu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I want to take a moment to express my love for my birthplace, Hawai'i. It holds a special place in my heart due to its unmatched beauty, from the crystal-clear waters to the lush green mountains - it is a true paradise. But what makes Hawai'i even more special is its people and our culture. I was born and raised in "Old Kailua" and witnessed the Aloha spirit firsthand. The kindness, respect, and love that the people of Hawai'i (my family included) have for one another is truly inspiring.

My name is Kawēkiu Liu, and I am a third-generation descendant of Kailua. Over the years, many outsiders acquired properties surrounding our Ohana, and my family and I slowly witnessed each of our native Hawaiian friends forced out of our little private pathway in Kailua. Our once home to several local and native Ohana of Kailua quickly became an overpopulated Air BNB zone for rich tourists. We were the last to hang on, and sadly, my grandmother, father, siblings, and I had to bid farewell to our childhood home. Like Iam Tongi, the 2023 American Idol winner mentioned, we were priced out of paradise.

Despite the challenges many Hawaiians face, including my family, who have been priced out of their homes due to the influx of tourists wanting a piece of our beautiful home for vacation rentals, money opportunities, etc., Hawai'i remains a place of resilience and hope. It is a place where people come together to support one another and work towards a common goal of preserving the land and culture.

I urge everyone who visits Hawai'i to take the time to learn about the culture and history of this special place and not take advantage of it by selling our homes to the highest bidder. Respect the land, the people, and the traditions that make Hawai'i unique. And to my fellow Hawaiians, I encourage you to continue to fight for what is right and preserve the beauty of this place for future generations.

I stand in favor of SB 2617 in the hope of a future where our children and generations do not have to worry about being priced out of paradise.

Mahalo for your time,
Kawēkiu

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:00:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ethan C Leite	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ethan Leite of Hilo, Hawai'i island. I strongly agree with this bill given that there has already been an ongoing occurrence of foreign acquisition upon property in Hawai'i since the late 1800s. This bill will allow residents, especially those of Hawaiian ethnicity such as myself, to be able to afford and acquire property in perpetuation of keeping the Native Hawaiian population in the islands of Hawai'i. There has been a profound influx in Native Hawaiians leaving their rightful home to reside on the continental U.S. due to the dramatic increase of foreign property acquisition and the general cost of living which is affected by the "facade" of luxury homes and short-term housing market. Along with many other factors, the act of foreign acquisition of property is not only detrimental to the socio-economic wellbeing of Hawai'i but also the ecological health of the islands. This is a special place on Earth holds many ecological wonders that can be found no where else. The increase in foreign development will inevitably be the downfall of the precious, unique ecosystems that have supported Hawai'i for thousands of years.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:02:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
hilinai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian lands in local residents (born & raise has hawaii family generations) hands!!!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:03:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherelle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill! We need to ban foreigners from buying land. The local people who have grown up here are not benefiting from it!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:04:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaile Akina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

My name is Kaile Akina and I am at Utah resident with long standing ties to Maui on my father's side.

I'm urging you to support SB2617 and to consider the positive, systemic effect this will have on all Hawai'i residents. As a Utah resident and cultural community health worker, hearing another story of a heartbroken Kanaka Maoli living in diaspora after having been priced out of their home in Hawai'i comes by no surprise.

As more private and corporate entities purchase land that will be unlive in long-term, Hawai'i residents, and more critically Kanaka Maoli, get priced out of their homes regardless of their status as a homeowner or renter.

Transplants and foreigners continuously contribute to the rising costs of inflation by normalizing steep housing market price gouging resulting in multiple barriers that make it impossible for people to afford living in Hawai'i.

By stopping the ability for outsiders to purchase lands, we preserve the land for Kama'aina and aboriginal land stewards to prioritize circulatory land preservation. Preserving land for those in relation to it will contribute to the long-term health of both the 'aina and the lāhui.

The well being of the land depends on your support.

Thank you for choosing to preserve Hawai'i,

Kaile

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:04:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Lombardo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaiian through blood seeing my land raped and stolen from its people by foreigners it is absolutely unforgivable in my eyes. I have witnessed Hawaiian people pushed out of hawaii due to rising cost and being bought out of their lands. It is time for the people to take back their land. I as a kanaka born and raised on kauai do not want our lands being taken from us. Hawaii without Hawaiians will be a sad day, without virgous efforts my words will be in vein. Hawaiians need more opportunity and chance to take back our land and perpetuate it as kanaka.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:05:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
bryson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A'ole to foreign home buyers!! And taking the land from the native Hawaiians!!!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:05:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aldarah Kumura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will support and correct the rights and freedoms of native Hawaiians and all natively born and raised persons in the state. I support this bill and intend to see its fulfillment.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:07:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was born and raised on O'ahu and the amount of friends and family that have been pushed out due to the housing crisis is substantial. I will never be able to afford a home here, thats something i knew even when i was a kid. That sad reality, that locals will be forced to one day move in order to live comfortably, rather than constantly struggle to make ends meet here at home, is heartbreaking. Its a guarantee, that one day soon, the islands will be full of only people with no ties to it, just a place for foreigners to vacation, or mainlanders to live in for a couple years. This bill just makes sense. Please help the people of the hawaiian islands.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:08:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chance-Matthew K Akamichi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to stop the foreigners from buying hawaiian lands from hawaiian hands! Mahalo

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:09:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ariella Upton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is no secret that Hawaiians and locals have been in a housing crisis for many many years. Every year, friends, family, coworkers and classmates are forced to leave Hawaii due to lack of affordable housing. Meanwhile, we watch transplant real estate agents pander the land, advertising "your new vacation home" to out of state and out of country people who have no worries about their living situation back home. They boast summers or winters or both in the islands, and whether or not they realize it, the very people who make this place the paradise it is move away. Please pass this bill as a measure for hope for the future of all residents. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:09:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not like the idea of selling any United States property to foreigners. It's really stupid to allow it.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:10:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Gamboa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Elijah Gamboa

Halau Ku Mana PCS

2101 Makiki Heights Dr #2520

Honolulu, HI 96822

elijah.gamboa@halaukumana.org

808-726-8566

2/6/24

Subject: Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 2617

Dear Dear Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Elijah Gamboa, and I am a 9th grade student at Halau Ku Mana PCS. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimis indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Elijah Gamboa

LATE LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:10:14 PM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholle S L Konanui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Lee and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees,

My name is Nicholle Konanui; I am a Native Hawaiian resident of Hawai'i Island.

I am testifying **in strong support** of bill SB2617 which prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in the State, except a de minimus indirect interest.

As other states enacted a foreign ownership law in the 2023 legislative session including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia. Based on these facts, the finding that such laws as "unconstitutional" be dismissed.

Please keep Hawai'i a place where Hawaiians can call home.

Mahalo palena 'ole,

Nicholle S. L. Konanui

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:10:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Coalette Lay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Being born and raised in Hawaii the future for my own Keiki of ever owning their own house or raising their 'Ohana here is so uncertain on the path we currently are on. We need to secure Hawaii's people future here. We cannot allow our home to only cater to the very wealthy or we all will not be able to live here anymore. I truly believe in this purposed bill. New Zealand has shown that it can work and that it has allowed their people to thrive in their homelands. mahalo for your time.

Coalette Lay

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:10:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keawe'iwi Pilayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian, the relationship that I have to the 'āina my 'ohana resides on is of utmost importance to my being. How can any of us have that relationship, if some other foreigner with lots of money, is buying up and "owning" that 'āina?

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:11:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wynona-Lynne Masaniai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The "Long Overdue Bill" will give k̄naka a real chance to have 'āina back for not only themselves and their 'ohana but also for future generations to come! For far too long, foreigners have purchased land and displaced k̄naka all across Hawai'i and if this bill is our fighting chance to ho'ihō'i 'āina, then so be it. I am all for it.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:13:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunny Akaji	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am for passing this bill to prevent foreigners from buying property in Hawaii.

I am a single mom of three children living on the island of Kauai. I have two jobs and can barely afford the cost of feeding my family, and am nowhere near being able to find affordable housing. I now live with my parents who are both in their 70s and retired. My mother has cancer and it is very difficult to manage keeping her safe from getting any illness kids bring home from school.

Our island has a lack of housing in general, but they are still planning to develop all of these luxury homes and private neighborhoods for wealthy foreigners. The affordable housing projects they have built recently have a low income amount that I don't qualify for. I am one of the many local families stuck in the income bracket with no assistance and no way of being able to afford a home.

This needs to be fixed.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:13:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE **LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gardner Nakatani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our people have been forcefully pushed out of our home for over a century. Since the illegal overthrow of 1893 our people have been fighting to just simply live in our own home, former President Bill Clinton agreed and signed an official apology in 1993, but meant nothing because it continues to happen. It's time to start taking care of the people of this land, and preventing out of state investors from causing housing prices to rise in a start.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:13:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Talace Pai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gentrification is a cycle none of my ancestors have been able to get ahead of, me included. We need the opportunity, we need anything and everything available to give us a chance to stand on our own two feet without predetermined failure. This is what the lāhui needs and my kāko‘o is absolute.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:13:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE **LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eleni Lazarou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Land has been seized and stolen from Hawaiian natives for generations and continues to be influenced by governments, large corporations and parties of interest with means and capacity to obtain land and property in Hawaii. I support limiting foreign interest and capacity in acquiring further property in efforts to protect and maintain the rights of locals. There should be federal and state obligation to support and represent the needs and beliefs of Hawaiian majority.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:14:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy Aguiar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How can Hawaii government be so blind to not see the importance of this bill. It is constitutional and active in other states. Stop allowing outside purchases and start helping the people that elected you to office. Put us first for once.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:14:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantelle Kalahiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Me and my 'ohana fully support this bill. My husband and I were born and raised on 'Oahu, we chose to raise our children here, and hope to stay here for our future generations.

We currently rent and have been renting for 10+ years. That's thousands for dollars going to someone else, which is not benefitting us financially. We can't qualify for any government assistance, but yet we can't afford to buy our own house because the supply and demand increases the cost to own a home, surpassing what us locals can afford. When food is expensive and just to live here overall is expensive, we become discouraged that we will never be able to purchase a home for our family. We've had many opportunities to move away, but we were further blessed to have two of our children get accepted to Kamehameha Schools. Because of this, we have put our hopes at home ownership on hold so our children can benefit from a good education right here, home, where they belong.

My 'ohana does not want to leave our home, where we grew up and passed down traditions with other families. We do not want to give up home ownership here, where we grew up. We do not want our children to leave our home, where they grew up and call home.

We want to stay here, our home, with our 'ohana and the 'ohanas we've met along the way, where our 'ohana just grows. We want to fight to stay here. We want justice for our people. We need a change now. We need a change for our future. We need a change for our children, our children's children, and all the generations to come.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:15:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyson Kahiwaikiwaokalani Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kyson Murphy, I'm 16 years old and I go to Castle High School . I am in support of SB2617 trying to create affordable housing prices because I don't think it's fair to the locals who were born and raised here in Hawaii to have to deal with foreigners coming to Hawaii buying land and making it so expensive just to live here. I really do care about this bill because Hawaii is my home and I know that one day I'm gonna want to buy a house and stay in Hawaii. So I really like this bill to be passed.

Mahalo, Kyson Murphy

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:15:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mona Schimmelfennig	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support bill SB2617. There is no reason foreigners need to be buying land in Hawaii.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:15:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Pikini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill 100%, foreign owners are "flipping" properties to make money which in return are driving prices to unrealistic amounts for local economy. There are many issues to the housing crisis in Hawaii and this is just one of them. Please stop foreign ownership!

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:16:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rose Woods	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure. I ask that this measure be passed.

Making our Aina unavailable for foreign purchase is a step towards pricing Kamaaina back INTO Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Rose Woods

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:16:50 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesseny Ascencio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617 because as a Native Hawaiian, it is unjust to see my fellow Native Hawaiians leave due to cost of living obstacles like housing. Hawaiians deserve to stay here in Hawai'i and shouldn't be "Priced out of Paradise", due to some foreigner having more money than them. Foreign investors are one of the main reasons as to why we have the highest medians to buy a home in the U.S. Without Hawaiians in Hawai'i, there will be NO ALOHA!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:16:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
alia cyd bruhn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Alia Cyd Bruhn and I'm 16 years old, and I support bill SB2617 because I think that foreigners should have no right in buying land and property. Most foreigners buy land without thinking about the consequences that come with buying the land. A lot of native hawaiiians would be furious if they had to pay more than they already do because of someone buying land. How would feel if someone bought land that caused you to pay more than usual?

Mahalo,

Alia Cyd Bruhn

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:17:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE **LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
halia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to keep Hawaiian lands affordable for native Hawaiians. Refraining from allowing foreign investors to acquire our land will allow for more locals to own land.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:17:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Lee-Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha ,

I am Nicholas Lee-Wong and I am a junior at castle high school. I am in support of SB2617 because I don't want more foreigners or tourist coming and owning the land when barley any of the native Hawaiians own land here. I am also in support of this because living here is too expensive and it's getting hard to survive. Would you feel a way if you couldn't live where your home is because of other people?

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:17:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caleb Liborio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii homes should be for Hawaii locals only.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:18:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
grant goin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support bill SB2617 to stop foreign entities from buy land in Hawai'i. It is already hard to afford tent out here and with foreign investors puehasing more land and extorting other resources, it will only make it harder for my generation and the generations to follow harder to survive and stay here in our home land. Think of the people who have ancestors burried here and help make Hawai'i, Hawai'i.

me ke aloha nō

Grant Goin

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:20:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
McIntyre Horito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in opposition to foreigners buying land here in Hawaii. The economic impact on the indigenous and others is substantial, and is causing problems.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:20:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Maile Naehu	Testifying for Hui o Kuapa	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am in strong support of this bill.

Mahalo

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:21:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jael Esther Simonson Tunick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a kanaka maoli resident, born and raised on Maui, now living on Oahu for the past 6 years. Previously, I had been living in NYC after completing college there, and decided to move back home to be closer to my aging mother.

The move back home was not just for my mother, however; I also had a strong urge, a need even, to be back on Hawaiian soil. As you already know, the connection to the land is deep for Native Hawaiians, it's practically innate. Being far away from its soil and its waters, it wears on your soul, and being far away from Hawai'i's people; that is the biggest bonus I can remember to returning home, is being around fellow kanaka maoli and locals I'd known my whole life.

Hawai'i is nothing without her people--after all, we developed our reputation as the Aloha State because of our generous welcoming spirit! You can prove this if you look at any threads on the Hawai'i Reddit, complaining about the increase in foreign residents (either from the Mainland or abroad), and even track the specific areas where our people are rapidly disappearing. **It is the people of Hawai'i that preserve this state, its culture and its history, and this is why it pains me to see the vast majority of us Hawai'i residents unable to afford a home in our own backyard. We no longer have a housing crisis, we have a housing emergency.**

I was born and raised on the island of Maui, Happy Valley to be specific. It's the only island I can still make my way around without a map; it is also the final resting place of my kupuna, including my dear grandmother who helped raise me. My ancestors go back generations and generations on the Valley Isle, and yet I still know that, as a soon to be 37-year old kanaka woman with a job that pays her an above average annual salary for the state of Hawai'i, that I will never, **EVER** own a home on my home island.

Think about that for a second--the home island that I lived on my whole life, is not a possibility for me to make a home today. **The average sale price of a Maui house is \$1.2M** and even with the tragedies in Lahaina and Kula, the market shows no sign of slowing down. Ever since I moved back home, I have been tracking the housing market on multiple islands, hoping that there's a way I can find to own a home.

Yet how can I compete with foreign investors with bottomless pockets, who can afford to snatch up every big house and property development? This truth is most evident on Maui, because of its pricey real estate market, but the reality is that it is happening on all the major islands. For

example, Mark Zuckerberg has managed to amass hundreds of acres on the island of Kauai, none of which is accessible to the local residents, whose history go back a lot further than Facebook does. How can this be allowed? What's next, Oprah buys a third of Maui for her new ranch?

Without restrictions on foreign buyers, Hawaii's people will only continue to leave this state **like water through a sieve**. After all, the state has shown their interests lie towards the financial turn, and bigger profit is better profit, so the interests of the people have been lost. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that the average salary of a Hawaii resident barely covers the cost of living expenses, so the idea of saving for a down payment has become a fairy tale to us Millennials.

Even with my above average salary, it is still a struggle for my husband and I to make ends meet, with the rising costs of living in Hawaii. I have several friends and classmates who were forced to move to the Mainland, either for better job opportunities or a chance to own a home for their family, or even both! It is a prospect that always looms in the back of my mind--how many things would have to go wrong for me to have no choice but to move back? Three? Four?

Please, I urge you, support bill SB2617 and support the rights of Hawaii's residents to live in their homeland. After all, shouldn't it be a basic right of someone, to be able to live where they grew up? To live in a place that's the only one they know and understand? Those of us who leave, we leave behind family, culture, even attitudes that enrich our lives more than anything we could find on the Mainland. You can't imagine the pain and the heartache that there is for a kanaka maoli, to be so far away from their land and their people, it is easy to lose yourself.

Those of us who stay, we are **steadfast** in our determination to own a home, and **we rely on lawmakers such as yourselves to pass laws for our well-being**. Stop allowing the steal of Hawaiian lands, and return the right of land ownership to those of us connected to it.

Without this bill, and legislation like it, Hawaii will soon be a distant memory and nothing more than a Polynesian version of the Caribbean or Bahamas, a place where the Mainlanders and foreigners get to vacation and play, and we get nothing more than degrading jobs with menial pay. Please, save Hawaii and her lands now while we still can!

Mahalo piha for your consideration,

Jael Esther Kealiiwahineouilaninaopio Simonson Tunick

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:22:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Costa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:22:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Floyd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Finding housing has gotten increasingly difficult, especially when competing for affordable housing. Keep foreign investors out of Hawaii and provide more movement for the economy within Hawaii.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:23:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kasey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a local resident of Kaua'i, Hawai'i I feel that this bill needs to be passed. My husband and myself are what we would be deemed as below middle class and for that we wouldn't be able to afford to buy a home here on an island where we both grew up on and started a family on. We want our kids to know where they are from and quite unfortunately it has come to the point that although we do enjoy living with our in-laws we do need our own space and right now we cannot afford to buy anything here because of the fact that your average home price is over 800k and we do not make no where near enough to be able to save and provide for our family. Yes we understand we live in paradise and we love it but the reality is that now we may be having to move away to the mainland just so we can live comfortably. This bill being passed would give us and our children the opportunity to buy home where they grew up and be able to stay.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:24:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Ann Palea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. We need to provide for our local community. Prices are out of control. Change needs to happen and start now. We are dying as locals. Take care of the people first!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:25:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill because I am a victim of this. How so? Is because me and my family spent years trying to look into buying a house in Hawaii but no luck because there isn't anything left that is not ridiculously high in price. We had to look into buying in the mainland. We would love to stay in Hawaii because we was born and raised here but no can cause get all these foreigners buying out homes that could be bought buy locals only. Sad just sad.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:25:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Catrett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:25:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derrick kahana	Testifying for Kanaka	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I Derrick Kahana fully support this bill. 100 percent disagree with "our" attorney general who is not of hawaiian decent. I question how someone not of hawaiian blood could have so much say on a land that was stolen by greedy foreign entities. This has nothing to do with race but i feel like i needed to address the elephant in the room. That being said for anyone to look at this bill SB2617 as being un constitutional doesn't have connections or blood that runs through the land through our kupunas bones. We are a peaceful hawaiian race until we are pushed to far. Enough is enough let our hawaiian people be able to stay here on these lands which were stolen ... hawaiian homes is a joke program that makes it impossible to actullay benefit while u alive.Lets pass this bill for the benefit of hawaiiens. Before long if we stay on course as is, you all will be living on an isand without the people and lands that attracted you to these islands in the first place. Aloha

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:26:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Chong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jason Chong and I live on the Big Island. I am giving my testimony in support of SB2617. I strongly believe that with this bill more people who were born and raised in Hawaii will be able to stay in Hawaii and be able to afford to purchase land instead of only outside entities.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:26:10 PM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candice Uʻilani Miner-Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My name is Candice Uʻilani Miner-Ching, and I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Bill SB2617, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in the State of Hawaiʻi. As a Native Hawaiian/Kanaka Maoli, deeply connected to the land and culture of these islands, I believe this bill is essential for protecting our ancestral lands and ensuring the well-being of our communities.

Bill SB2617 is a critical step towards preserving the integrity of our lands and the sovereignty of our people. It prohibits foreign principals from acquiring real property in Hawaiʻi or any interest in real property, except for a de minimus indirect interest. By defining a foreign principal and requiring registration of ownership with the Attorney General for properties acquired before the effective date of this measure, the bill safeguards our lands from unchecked outside influence.

For too long, the commodification of our land has threatened the cultural and environmental sustainability of our islands. By mandating that buyers of real property provide a signed affidavit confirming they are not foreign principals, this bill reaffirms our commitment to responsible stewardship of our resources and ensures that our communities remain accessible to local residents.

Furthermore, Bill SB2617 authorizes the forfeiture of real property or an interest in real property owned or acquired unlawfully, establishing penalties for non-compliance. This sends a powerful message that the State of Hawaii is committed to upholding the rights of its indigenous people and protecting our lands from exploitation.

I commend the efforts of the lawmakers and organizations involved in crafting and supporting this bill. Their dedication to the preservation of our cultural heritage and the sovereignty of our people is deeply appreciated.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to give favorable consideration to Bill SB2617. By passing this legislation, we can honor our ancestors, protect our lands, and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and attention to this important matter.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Candice U'ilani Miner-Ching
P.O. Box 7734

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:26:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Kahalehau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Too much of my family and friends have been priced out of their lands and homes, Hawaii for Hawaiis people ONLY

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:26:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendalynn Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support bill SB2617 to stop foreigners from buying property/real estate in Hawaii.

Protect Hawaii

Thank you

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:28:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Osorio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I've lived in Hawaii island all my life and seen more and more people move here from out of state which has displaced not only native Hawaiian family's but also local families that have been living here for multiple generations. It has driven the housing market up to where people can't afford to even live in there own homeland. People like myself, who do decide to live here are forced to live areas like puna because it's the only place that's affordable. Many family units need to work multiple jobs just to survive. I feel strongly that their needs to be strict regulations and foreigners acquiring land in Hawaii to help the people who live here.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:29:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are at a breaking point out here in Hawaii where it is almost unmanagable for most residents who were born and raised in the islands to afford to live and prosper in their home land. We need so much to change and have control over our housing market, costs and availability of homes to rent or buy. I know personally 3 different families who have moved off island within the past 4 months just to be able to afford to live and afford a place to live. None of them wanted to but HAD to in order to survive, all of whom were born and raised in these islands and wanted to stay but could not. Things really took a turn after the pandemic and with rent going up and availability going down we absolutely need to put restrictions on foreign buyers from taking what little we have left. It's time to make the right choices not out of greed or profit but for the beautiful people who are native to this land and make Hawaii special.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Sean Kim

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:29:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jae-Kila Oshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. As a native Hawaiian who has worked in the mortgage industry, I know and have seen the struggles locals have competing with outsiders/foreigners to purchase homes. In order to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands, this bill needs to be passed. It is not Hawaii without Hawaiians. We cannot continue to allow foreigners to buy up all the land. Give us hardworking locals a chance to own a piece of the land of our ancestors.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:29:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shelbie Rosa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear committee members ,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by giving the people of Hawai'i hope that they can still continue to call this place home for generations to come . Having the first chance at buying land & homes instead of competing with rich foreigners who come here to retire or use their homes a vacation rental . Building our community back up and supporting more local businesses .

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Shelbie V. Rosa

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:30:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trixy Nuesca-Ganer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill I'm not allowing foreign buyers to buy and occupy our land. I was part of the Lahaina wildfires and with the amount of short term rentals we have because we have allowed this to happen is devastating and there is no housing available for us. Because of this so many are forced to move away. Please do not continue the cycle of allowing foreign purchases. We cannot afford to continue having people that aren't from here but up our lands. We will not have anything left for generations to come.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:31:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kohlby Soong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I full heartedly support SB 2617 in defering foreign access to buy Hawaiian lands/ properties. No more please. As a Hawaiian, ive been raised in generation where we are the minority within our homeland, where our culture and voices are diluted by the vastness of this global socities. We need to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands so that Hawaii can be its authentic being. Or So that our people are not displaced or forced to flee away from there kulaiwi/motherland. This bill protects Hawaiian interest and keeps land/property open for the future generations of Hawai'i's keiki. Please highly consider. Mahalo a nui:)

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:32:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jade Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill. How can Hawai'i be Hawai'i if Kānaka Maoli are being pushed and priced out of their own lands by foreigners, these lands which were illegally taken from them and still illegally occupied? There needs to be boundaries made to ensure their right to exist and really thrive in Hawai'i and as the first and foremost priority in our Hawai'i communities.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:31:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is T Leilani Waldron. I am a wahine kanaka 'ōiwi residing on Hawai'i island. I support 2617 SB. Over half of the documented "Native Hawaiian" population is now part of a diaspora and continue to leave Hawai'i primarily due to the rising cost of living which includes the ever-increasing cost of homes due to the influx of foreign purchases. The allowance of foreigners to purchase property in Hawai'i adversely affects the Kanaka 'ōiwi population as it displaces us from our 'āina.

I urge you to see the practicality in not allowing foreigners to continue purchasing property in Hawai'i as it does not benefit our local and/or Hawaiian communities.

Mahalo piha!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:33:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapuakea Isaak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Owning land in Hawai'i is incredibly inaccessible for those who are from Hawai'i and wish to remain in Hawai'i. Forbidding foreign interest from being able to purchase land would be a powerful step in the right direction of creating a Hawai'i that supports those from Hawai'i rather than driving them out.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:33:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainoa J. Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it stops foreigners from coming in & purchasing our land & our homes. It's driving our people out of Hawaii. It's raising the cost of living. I want my family my kids my grandkids to be able to live in this place I call home for years to come.

LATE **LATE**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:33:59 PM
Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilima Hose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a kanaka Hawai'i and native of this land, I find it not only appropriate but it should be lawful to prohibit foreign principals from acquiring real property in the State or any interest in real property in all of Hawai'i.

“There are now more Native Hawaiians living in the continental United States than in the islands, according to the latest numbers from the 2020 U.S. Census. Of the more than 680,000 Native Hawaiians in the U.S., 55% of the population is currently living outside Hawai'i.” This is according to Hawai'i Public Radio in an announcement made by [Ku'uwehi Hiraishi](#). This was published on September 22, 2023 at 1:05 PM HST on their website.

As alarming as these numbers are, we all know that the issue is that most of our native people have been “priced out of paradise.” Like Senator Awa stated in an interview with KHON2 news, “During the pandemic right before I got into office here we saw the home prices jump up \$400 thousand dollars within a year, and that was because people outside were coming in. When they're coming in with cash and our salaries over here are less than those of the people who are ready to retire, we can't compete.”

Personally, as a mother of two children working full-time alongside my husband who owns our family business, we can barely afford our life here in our native home of Kaua'i. First off, my family was fortunate to finally qualify for a loan to purchase a home before Covid hit. This was after two years of searching and failing over and over, mostly because everything was already so expensive, even homes that were falling apart and built in the 1940's and 1950's. When we finally closed on our purchase of our first home as a family, our mortgage and interest was already high in early 2020. Today, as we look for a larger home for our growing family, we are in a worse place than we were 4 years ago! The costs of homes and land here in Hawai'i, and especially on Kaua'i, have skyrocketed and so have interest rates!

I have watched family members and friends move away because they cannot afford to live here in our home, the home of our ancestors! Others cannot afford to live in homes and have taken to living at the beach or in their cars, which is beyond despairing for these 'ohana and our native kānaka Hawai'i as a whole. The rise of foreigners buying our 'āina and homes here in Hawai'i have caused these increases in prices and therefore causing a complete domino effect on the rise of our cost of living in Hawai'i!

We need to regulate such purchases by foreigners! We need to keep our kānaka Hawai'i in our home land! I refuse to be pushed out of the land of my kūpuna and I am passionate about standing up with my kūpuna for our lands that they have fought for for too many years! It is time for us to make this change. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands! Stop allowing foreigners to take what we have left and then change what we do have here when they move here! When foreigners move here, they do not all understand or care about our people and culture. Many change and degrade our home and 'āina. Our people need to be able to live in their own home in their own land. We should never be houseless in a place we call home. Our island resources are limited. Our people NEED these resources. Foreigners should not be able to take our limited resources either. There are so many issues caused by foreigners purchasing our land and homes that I could go on and on about it, but I think you understand my points. Please stop foreigners from being allowed to purchase our 'āina and homes. Mahalo nui for hearing me out!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:36:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tatiana Santiago	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617. Many of our local residents are having to move away because they can't afford to live in Hawaii. Many foreign buyers are coming in and purchasing land that should go to the natives of this land. The Hawaiian people are still waiting to be called on the Hawaiian Homes list and some will die on that list. As my family waits, they had to relocate in order to afford a home with a decent of cost living. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. I support SB2617.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:36:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Pau-Oshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I support Sb2617 and do not want foreigners to buy our land of Hawaii. My 'Ohana From the 1800 till now are still fighting for what is rightfully ours.

Mahalo,

Anela Pau-Oshiro

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:37:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ka'au estrella	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kaau Estrella and I am a 24 year old native Hawaiian that is from Hilo, Hawaii. I am in support of this bill because it offers the opportunities to all native Hawaiians, both young and old, a better opportunity at owning a house or property in the place they call home. In my short 24 years of life, I have been blessed with the opportunity to move around the country to further my education. After doing so I have always intended to move back home. Back in 2022, I got the opportunity to return home to Hawai'i to begin my new career.

After returning home I have seen how hard it is for native Hawaiian people to own their own home as the demand for housing increases but the opportunities and supply remain low. This drives up cost and makes it almost impossible for a young person such as myself or even the average Hawaiian to even think about owning a home. Whereas in other states, people my age, even friends or family that call Hawaii their home are able to purchase and afford houses elsewhere.

I am in support of this bill not only because it offers opportunity to current Hawaii residents but to native Hawaiians who have always called Hawaii home and dream of returning home one day.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:38:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elyse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2617 being passed.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:38:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Shodai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that the people of Hawaii deserve to have the opportunity to purchase land and a home at an affordable rate. People who were born and raised here in Hawaii have been talking about having to move away and getting priced out of paradise for a long time now and it's time to put a stop to that!

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:38:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nainoa Alefaio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The State of Hawai'i should have had this sort of legislature in place for decades. With unaffordable housing prices only getting higher throughout the state, Native Hawaiians and long time non-native residents have been leaving Hawai'i in droves. One reason people have to leave is because the property available in the state gets sold to these foreign investors. And foreign here does mean out of state Americans. These foreigners should not be able to buy property in Hawai'i and keep houses and land away from Kanaka Maoli and "locals" alike. Laws like this are already in place in other nations and states of the union as well. Those opposed to this bill claim it is unconstitutional, and I just think that is absolutely ironic. Considering the State of Hawai'i and the United States are illegally occupying the Hawaiian Kingdom and have been since 1893, absolutely everything that is happening in this territory is unconstitutional. The State should adopt this bill that I will claim, the Hawaiian Kingdom would have supported and would have put in place decades if not a century ago. Do not talk to us about "unconstitutional," when the State is a belligerent occupying force using unconstitutional laws and assumptions to claim and keep its control over the occupied Hawaiian Kingdom.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:39:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. (Margaret) Ka'imi Nicholson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am strongly in favor of SB2617, & it is long past due. A property manager of a condominium testified that 60% of the condos are empty at any one time because they are owned as investment properties; no one is living in them. This means that there is no housing shortage in Hawaii! There is a shortage of affordable housing for we who live here. Other states & countries have protected their people by putting a boundry on wealthy foreigners buying property, and we can, too. Our Hawaiian land for our Hawaiian people. Keep our families together. Please uphold th power of aloha, not the power of money. Our 'aina is our most precious resource. Mahalo nui loa.

LATE LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:40:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylee Damo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am in support of this bill because as a Hawaiian family we cannot afford to buy a house here. We are young family of professionals and first responders and we aren't able to purchase a house and yard sustainable for our 'ohana without sacrificing everything else we enjoy. We would simply be mortgage broke and that is no way to live. Must we have to choose between sending our children to a good school and paying our morgage? We give back to our community and in return we would love to be able to own a home here for our future generations.

Mahalo,

Damo 'ohana

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:40:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina Pau-Exzabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I stand in support of SB2617.

Being born and raised here is such a blessing and I would love to keep our Hawaiian generations here. It is sad to see our Hawaiians getting driven away because of the rising cost of living. We need to bring our Hawaiians back home where they belong. If we keep driving them away then what would Hawai'i be if we lose all of its people? There is no Hawai'i without Hawaiians.

Mahalo,

Gina

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:41:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
miza clifft	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Miza Clifft

Halau Ku Mana PCS

02/06/2024

Subject: Undo Annexation

Dear U.S Congress

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Miza Clifft, and I am a 12th grade student at Halau Ku Mana PCS. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimus indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs,

allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of SB2617 to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Miza Clift

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:41:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Nō,

My name is Leimana Anne Kau‘i Hassett. I was born on the mokupuni o Kaua‘i. I was raised in Lahaina, Maui. And yes, I was affected, as tiring as that is to keep repeating. Mahalo nui for your eyes on my testimony. This is of GRAVE importance to me, my people, and those who will succeed us.

If justice is what the Senate is hoping to build through legal action this bill is most definitely "LONG OVERDUE". Kanaka Maoli and locals alike have faced unrelenting housing and land deprivation by outside buyers for generations. This has forced our people to homelessness, below poverty, or move away (amongst other evils). This bill will have many ripple effects over our pae ‘āina. This would give hope to our people and encourage communities to rebuild and reimagine a future where families can thrive in a place that is our own instead of making room for those who do not contribute to our society/culture. In light of the devastating fire that took away my and everyone I know’s home from Lahaina, this bill gives us the CHANCE to have a place to call home again. Throughout the rest of our pae ‘āina, we will be able to reconnect and even bring home those who were unable to stay.

What is "unconstitutional" is theft. This kingdom or nation- however you‘d like to refer to Hawai‘i, has been illegally occupied since January 17th, 1893, while the theft of land continues. This bill will set us in the correct direction if your goal is truly justice. If this is not followed through, we will know what end goal this government is interested in- MONEY. This may sound like a broken record to you folks, but we will never stop our fight for justice.

State Attorney General, Anne Lopez, I will probably never understand what it is like to be in your position. I will never know the details of your life and the circumstances of your decisions. I say this with conviction because I know you will never know what it is like to be me. To be a female kanaka maoli who grew up in a society that is not my own. To be taught by people who have suffered immensely for their home, culture, and people. I know the pain and the fatigue of being a native person in a land that was once a cohesive, lush place and is now dying. I also know that if kānaka maoli and ‘āina are separated for much longer we will all disappear. There will be no more fruitful land to be bought, this house of cards will collapse. We will take the spirit of our ‘āina with us. You have your perspective, here is mine...

David Malo, born in 1795, the hawaiian historian wrote a book called "Hawaiian Antiquities" that provided a comprehensive and detailed review of hawaiian knowledge. He was part of the first class to graduate from Lahaina Luna. He lived on what is present-day Waine'e street and was buried on the top of the "L". In the interest of time, 22 years ago my family finally made enough money to return to Waine'e street. 4 years ago my tūtū finally finished her house, my father built on waine'e street. 3 years ago my brothers moved onto our property, we saved up for and lived in the house our father built, also on waine'e. I lived 4 houses down from my tūtū wahine, my brothers lived a block over from us.

In a span of 2 1/2 hours 5 houses (family home, tūtū's, brothers', and another house on the lot) were destroyed. Not to mention over 100 families we grew up with, and half of these families have generational homes in Lahaina. All of this, because outside buyers bought land/homes, which encouraged the mismanagement of our resources. With lack of awareness and accountability requires consequences, in this case, the wrong people were punished for the negligence of governing bodies and their lack of accountability.

My tūtū watched as our homes burned to the ground while she was trapped by sky-scraping flames and apocalyptic "train-like" winds. She gazed at our childhood home as it smoldered, she saw as her home, shared with our papa, disappeared. She saw our brother's house implode while his neighbor's house exploded. She ran, pulling our autistic cousin through Waine'e street to find shelter from the hell fire tornado. She was there all night, "16+ hours and no one came for us, I had to walk down the highway to find someone... there was no one left." She saw death on our street while fighting to stay alive, for what? A foreigner to come and make the highest bid? So our resources, our water disappears and another industry fire kills our locals? 'A'ole! Hewa Nō.

That is my perspective. One the Attorney General will never fully know. However, you have the opportunity to prevent greed from taking away more from our land and people. At this point it doesn't matter what you think, it's what our people need to stay safe, to stay alive! Either change your definition of "unconstitutional" or you agree with 100+ people dying every so often.

Your Kuleana is large, I hope Pono and Aloha are on your side. Laki maika'i, you will need it.

Aloha,

Leimana

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:41:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaylin Bersamin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as a young individual born & raised here on Oahu. I would like to continue being a health provider in this state & would be greatly incentivized by the implementation of this bill. Mahalo.

LATE

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:42:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It prevents outsiders buying land in Hawaii and the land is rightfully owned by the native people of Hawaii.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:42:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KC Mckeague Salgado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bill	Committee	Room	Date/Time
2617 SB RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY.	CPN/TCA	CR 224 & Videoconference	Feb 6, 2024 3:00 PM

In SUPPORT.

My name is K.C. Lilia Mckeague-Salgado and I do not belong to any organization or group but I am a Hawaiian descendent and I firmly believe in this bill and what it propose. I stand in *support* of this bill. I am 30 years old and I've lived on our land for my entire life and I've witness the struggle first hand of living on our motherland. Our ancestral lands. It has become harder and harder for our families to live on the island our blood comes from. We are being priced out of our land just for others to come and enjoy the beauty of our land that we preserve and take care of, for their own selfish needs. We've already lost our government to the overthrow and now we're losing our people to foreign lands just so they don't have to live paycheck to paycheck to live here. When will this end?

It is heartbreaking that we live on Hawaiian land with a designated list of areas that are for our hawaiian people when in actuality this entire island belongs to the people, not small increments of it. We are put on a list to qualify for land with thousands of us never making it to the top of the list to receive this "Hawaiian Homes" because a lot of our people pass on before ever making it to the top. We have thousands of people waiting since my grandparents were young, to receive one of these Hawaiian homes, just for us to lose it in 100 years to foreign buyers.

We must preserve what we have left, in order to carry us through the future for our children. My children will not qualify for aina and land that rightfully belongs to them because of the standards our government has placed on us to cater to foreigners. It's time to worry about our own people before we can open our home up to others. We are a small economy of people and eventually our government will burn out our resources and our Aina. It is time we take back what is rightfully ours. We've waited for so long to regain what is rightfully ours. I stand for this bill and I hope you do too.

K.C. Mckeague-Salgado

Contact Information:

kcmckeague@gmail.com

808-726-6752

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:42:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssandra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Foreign persons or entities should not be allowed to purchase real estate in Hawaii. Only Hawaii state residents should be allowed to do so. Foreign entities will only have their personal interests in mind and are displacing homes that should be available for Kanaka Maoli and locals. This bill is long over due and is one of many actions needed for justice for Kanaka Maoli.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:42:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Schatzi Cope	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of SB2617. I am a proud kanaka who have roots all over our pae 'āina, and it's very difficult to see more and more foreign investors buying property, whether commercial or residential, while myself and other kanaka struggle to live or have a small business in our own homeland. Having outside buyers make it harder and has negatively impacted our societal and economical lives. All because this "state" needs more money? What about its people and our livelihood? The cost of living is skyrocketing out of control more and more and it needs to stop. We, kanaka, are being displaced. We cannot let any more outsiders take and control more land and property. Let us actually have a good life where we belong, being connected on our own 'āina, for us, and for our keiki, who are our future.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:47:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marinna Coburn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that foreigners should not be able to purchase property in Hawaii. Kanaka Maoli have been taken advantage of for centuries as far back as King Kamaheamahea. I, a native Hawaiian herself believe that native Hawaiians should have more opportunities to own property on their native lands. Hawaiian homelands does not offer enough opportunities for us Hawaiians. Unfortunately, my people have been forced out of their native lands, forcing to leave behind where they grew up from and the lands of their ancestors. I am here to bear written testimony that I am in for support of this bill. I've believe that foreigners are given more opportunities to housing than our own Hawaiian people. After centuries of our land being stolen from foreigners, it is time that us, Hawaiians are given back our opportunities to own lands that we come from and have become fruitful from. I've witnessed my grandparents, losing their homes. Unfortunately in modern times not only are the lands are being stolen, but we are taken over by foreigners. Our leaders of Hawaii, including our governor are foreigners. I believe that our leaders should have Hawaiian Blood. As a native Hawaiian, I am heart broken and I am devastated that our Hawaiians continue to be forced out due to affordability and foreign investors stealing, and purchasing land. I, believe that Hawaiians with Hawaiian blood should have first priority to purchasing land and housing. The bare minimum as Hawaiians deserve to keep our lands as we are lineage of our ancestors who fought tirelessly for our lands. We are standing before you with our Hawaiian blood, lineage, and ancestors linked by arms, hearts, & land. We are powerful and we will never stop fighting for our lands.

LATE

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:47:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sydney Reilley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian who grew up in Hawai'i that has gone to the states for college and for military, every time I came home less and less Hawaiians are there. Hawai'i isn't Hawai'i without its native people. My husband and I would like to move home when he gets out of the military. The only reason he doesn't want to is because of the cost of living. I believe the reason that Hawai'i got to be so expensive is because it chooses to adjust to all the tourists instead of its people.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:47:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael K Borges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it will help future hawaiian generations to buy land/homes here in hawaii instead of being forced out by mainlnD corporations who come and buy out everything so theres nothing left. Thank you for your time. -Michael K. Borges

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:48:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mana elmore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. We need to keep our kanaka home and be given the opportunity to stay home. To many of us are being forced to leave because we can't afford to own homes let alone even try and get a home on an island that is already over populated. Keep HAWAIIAN LANDS IN HAWAIIAN HANDS. RR4L

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:48:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keaka Larinaga-Cleaver

Halau Ku Mana PCS

02/06/2024

Subject: Undo Annexation

Dear U.S Congress

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill AG, which addresses the issue of foreign ownership of real property in our state. As a high school student living in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that many families face due to the rising cost of housing. I believe that implementing measures to regulate foreign ownership of real property is essential to ensuring housing affordability and stability for residents like myself.

My name is Keaka Larinaga-Cleaver, and I am a [grade level] student at [High School Name]. I am writing to express my support for Bill AG, which aims to address the growing concern of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. As a young resident of this state, I am deeply concerned about the impact of rising housing costs on families and communities across Hawaii.

The rising cost of housing in Hawaii has become a significant barrier for many families, making it increasingly difficult for them to afford a place to live. Foreign investment in real estate has contributed to this problem by driving up prices and reducing the availability of affordable housing options for local residents. By prohibiting foreign principals from acquiring real property in the state, except for de minimus indirect interests, Bill AG aims to mitigate the negative effects of foreign investment on our housing market.

As a high school student, I have seen classmates and their families struggle to find affordable housing options. Many of my peers have had to move away from their communities or live in overcrowded conditions due to the lack of affordable housing. Implementing regulations on foreign ownership of real property would help ensure that local residents have access to housing that is affordable and suitable for their needs, allowing families to remain in their communities and providing stability for students like myself.

In conclusion, I urge the members of SB2617 to support Bill AG and take action to address the issue of foreign ownership of real property in Hawaii. By implementing regulations to restrict foreign investment in our housing market, we can help alleviate the burden of housing costs on local residents and ensure that Hawaii remains a place where families can thrive. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Keaka Larinaga-Cleaver

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:49:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Patcho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS, IN HAWAIIAN HANDS. WE ARE KANAKA OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON OUR ACTIONS TODAY, THIS IS A START IN RECLAIMING WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:50:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ariana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a local born and raised in Hawaii, I support the "Long Overdue Bill". Local families like myself are struggling to make a life here in Hawaii, when the housing is expensive. This bill will help local families be able to purchase homes and stay in Hawaii.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:52:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
malina waialeale battad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS IN HAWAIIAN HANDS

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:53:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duke H.Au Hoon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Kanaka Maoli, I fully support this bill SB2617 relating to Real Property. As a Kanaka Maoli, we are pushed out of our own home land, The United Nations HUMAN RIGHTS Office of the High Commissioner has come to understand that the lawful political status of the Hawaiian Islands is that of a sovereign nation-state in continuity; but a nation-state that is under a strange form of occupation and a fraudulent annexation. As such, international laws (the Hague and Geneva Conventions) require that governance and legal matters within the occupied territory of the Hawaiian Islands must be administered by the application of the laws of the occupied state (in this case, the Hawaiian Kingdom), to the domestic laws of the occupier (the United States

Based on that understanding, it has been recommended to the people of the Hawaiian Islands—and other people and nations in similar situations—be provided access to UN procedures and mechanisms in order to exercise their right protected under international law. The adjudication of land transactions in the Hawaiian Islands would likewise be a matter of Hawaiian Kingdom law and international law, not domestic U.S. law. Therefore, the courts of the State of Hawaii must not enable or collude in the wrongful taking of private lands, bearing in mind that the right to property is recognized not only in U.S. law but also in Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:53:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi Ahlo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian with a genealogy that places my ancestors here in Hawai'i. I support this bill so that foreign entities stop purchasing land and housing here in Hawai'i.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:54:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrice Machado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I as a native Hawaiian agree with this bill. Too much of our kanaka are priced out of paradise. I also believe foreigners and mainlanders should surrender their houses bought in OUR HOME. To bring our people back.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:55:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Donald	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support limiting real property ownership to full time residents of HI only. In no case should any non-resident or part year resident be granted a license for any STVR. I was not born here, moved here nearly 20 years ago. Limiting real property ownership to full time residents, not just native born, would be a huge improvement to the current situation.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:58:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaukaweli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this I think that everyone will be priced out and no more affordable homes for Hawaiians. We are already seeing the increasing effects of this on a daily basis.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:58:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekonapiliahi Dias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Other states have banned foreigners from owning land it's our turn now! We're an island we don't have room for foreigners we need to look after our own people first! Stop putting the tourists first! Listen to the people!! More Hawaiians live in the mainland than in their own land because there's no where left to go ! Everything is too expensive! Foreigners are taking up space that could go to our people. Our people are living on the streets and these foreigners get first pick at everything. Buying land that could be used to help the homeless and children. We have people already buying up the burnt land in Lahaina. Our state always puts we the people last. Do something great for once and put us first !

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:58:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian Lands in Hawaiian Hands. No foreigner should be able to purchase property in the Kingdom of Hawai'i. Hawaiians should not be displaced from their own homes. I support this bill.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:02:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Palmero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill preventing foreigners from buying property in Hawai'i. It's long overdue to have a bill like this. As a Native Hawaiian, I would love to see more local families at home in Hawai'i. Being able to afford to live and raise our family where we grew up is very important to me. I plan to own a home in Hawai'i, raise my children here with my husband, and be able to pass on our land/homes to them.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:02:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luc Lambert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Luc Lambert and I am a resident of Oahu. Although I was born in California, my family is from Hawai'i and I moved back home at an early age. In the time I have lived here I have watched friends and family move away, being priced out of family homes by foreign buyers. I have watched my home change, the culture shift, and now, I fear that when I graduate college, I will not be able to return home as foreign buyers, among other factors, have raised the price of homes so high that even with a degree I will not be able to afford to live here. I strongly believe that what makes Hawai'i so great is its people, and as we are forced out, you will be left with a shell of what Hawaii once was, sold to the highest bidder at the expense of us, your constituents. Please help us ensure that we will not be priced out of paradise.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:03:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joe aloha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the decision of disallowing any and all foreign entities, nationals, individuals, corporations, businesses and governments from owning any title, land or property in Hawaii. Hawaii is not for sale! Stop any and all Foreigners from buying property, land and/or housing in Hawaii!

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:04:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neeve McGrath	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617. For too long foreign buyers have driven our real estate prices up, making money off property that they do not live in. Hawaii residents are priced out, working long hours to pay ridiculous rents because we cannot afford to purchase homes of our own. This has to stop and this bill opens the door to relief for our hardworking, tax paying residents.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:04:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
La'amea Paleka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for creating this bill, mindset and promise to us local population of Hawai'i to stop foreigners, military included and all individuals who disrespect our land and people. To all Military, and foregin American citizens who doesn't belong here or contribute to Hawai's lifestyle to make it a clean, peaceful, harmonious, kind place, filled with aloha should be educated and aware of what is important for all of us.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:04:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keola Kaonohi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to keep our people here in Hawaii. I am in support of the bill because it would limit the amount of "Haole" that would buy up all of the land and properties in Hawaii. By allowing the bill to pass, we could effectively make Hawaii a more affordable place for our Kanaka to own land and property here in our own Island home.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:06:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pono Almeida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measurement because I see it as a crucial first step in securing a better housing market for the kama'āina of Hawai'i. The high rate of kama'āina leaving Hawai'i for the states is alarming being that there is an influx of malihini (foreigners) from the states and abroad who are able to buy up homes here because they were able to buy homes or land wherever they were from and sell it to come here. Whereas, kama'āina can't even do that in Hawai'i. It's very rare you see kama'āina being able to invest in property or land in Hawai'i because we can't accure the funds to even begin. Without kama'āina and kānaka (Native Hawaiians), Hawai'i is not Hawai'i. Help kama'āina stay and flourish in our mainland. Keep Hawai'i Hawaiian.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:07:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunshine Permits- Kaheaku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We, the People, have been ignored, cast aside and blatantly disrespected when we bring up the issues of foreign ownership of lands within the State of Hawai'i. Land and resources have been mismanaged and trust of foreign businesspeople is beyond repair. With issues of houselessness and scarcity especially on Oahu, selling the limited lands and resources our counties rely on for foreign trade put residents at even greater risk due to rising costs of homes and lack of affordable housing. The solution is not to put all poor people in the same apartment building. We demand that this bill is passed to protect our resources and ensure a future for the people of Hawai'i. Foreign land owners drive up the cost in neighborhoods like Kalihi and generations are pushed out of our own communities. By allowing foreign purchasers to become owners and conduct business, the State is responsible for managing righteous and lawful practices. The State is failing the people of Hawai'i for the sake of greed. I support the passing of this bill to protect my future as a resident and descendant of this land. The correct decisions can begin the process of trust and relationships between citizens and government.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:08:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Halton Chartrand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2617!

KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS

IN HAWAIIAN HANDS!

BRING HAWAIIANS BACK

TO THEIR NATIVE LANDS!

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

HANDS IN THE LAND!

UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO

Mahalo for the Righteous step Forward

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:11:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cecilia Tevaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe this bill is a good start in the right direction to give what Hawaiians that are still here in the islands a chance to keep their homes or work hard to eventually own a "piece of OUR paradise". Give us a chance! The way the system is set up gives us hawaiians NO HOPE! I was born and raised in Hawai'i and at 33 years old I don't think it will ever be possible to own my own home here. I moved away and although the cost of living was cheaper it wasn't HOME! Please consider catering to the Hawaiians and locals where it matters. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands!!!

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:27:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristi San Diego	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2617

Name: Kristi San Diego

Address: In transition couching at my friend's grandma's place, saving up for the deposit and first month's rent for our next home.

Honolulu, HI, 96815

Email: sonnysandysummers@gmail.com

Date: February 6, 2024

Aloha, I am writing to express my strong support for SB2617. This legislation aligns with values and objectives that emphasize community growth, cultural preservation, and sustainable practices.

The proposed bill presents an opportunity to positively impact our community and the state of Hawai'i by holding space as a catalyst to pivoting Hawaii and its people of having a promising future. Now more than ever, since it's now common knowledge that more than half of our people have been priced out, who's to say, it will stop with our own people? The new population are not immuned from the unshameful raping of our home. We, the people of Hawaii sincerely ask for your careful attention and mindfulness towards who you want your own children and family see you in your role of in their future, for we are all interconnected whether we like it or not. No amount of money can atone for the repurcussions the future generations of Hawaii will undoubtedly see the obvious truths to. Infact, as I am currently looking for a new home to live in, I am finding it hard to find a single family home, it is as if Hawaii's ohanas are systemically

being reduced to public housing while our single family homes are being used as community dwelling of separate roommates because of the plain obvious fact that Hawaii families cannot afford to rent due to current prices being set by greedy mostly foreign buyers. Ultimately, ai humbly ask you prioritize our Haeaii's people, Hawaii's families and collectively our future together

SB2617 aligns with broader goals of promoting a thriving and sustainable community in Hawai'i. I believe that the passage of this bill will contribute significantly to the overall well-being and prosperity of our state.

I encourage the committee to consider the positive impact that this bill can have on businesses, communities, and the environment in Hawai'i. I am hopeful that the Senate will support this crucial piece of legislation.

Mahalo* for your time and consideration.

I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that SB2617 can only bring to our beloved Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Kristi S.

A fellow mommy, daughter, sister and keiki of Hawaii

(yes, born, raised and still here)

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:30:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Masaquel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committees,

My name is Alyssa Masaquel. I am a citizen of Hawai'i testifying in favor of Bill SB2617.

Growing up in Hawai'i has been wonderful. As I have reached adulthood I started to understand the reason so many families actually did stay together for so long. While the company is nice, it is also most feasible to stay together to save up to buy a home. If we want a chance to own a property ourselves one day, staying together to save up money has become even more vital.

However, as I've grown older and prices soar, it feels increasingly impossible to buy a home, even with a multiple income household. So many of my peers seem rather cynical about ever actually doing so unless they're handed down a family home.

Personally, I come from a divorced household and have no chance of inheriting my childhood home as it was sold. I've always been hopeful about being able to make it and stay on the islands but recently my family and I had been talking about following the footsteps of so many others and moving away to somewhere where housing is more affordable. I know there are many families like mine.

I used to drive for Uber and Lyft and have met so many tourists, college students, military, and other non locals who have really capitalized on the opportunity to buy property on these beautiful islands. While I welcomed them to the islands and found out how they so easily acquired property out here, while keeping their mainland homes, it was clear that they have grown up with a privilege and comfortability that I can't say all locals have experienced. Buying a home out here just seemed like an easy no brainer for them. This is not the case for too many locals.

The problem seems to have compounded on itself. Foreigners buying at the rates that seem too farfetched for locals to afford, creates less property available for locals and keeps and/or increases rates to purchase. Factor in inflation and it truly feels impossible for us locals to ever see ourselves as property owners in the place we've grown up.

It's long overdue to put the people of Hawaii first.

Please pass this bill so that those who have grown up on the islands, who know how best to Malama 'Aina, have a fighting chance to stay and thrive in the place they were raised.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in favor of this bill.

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SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:35:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joyel Valmoja	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider passing this bill for once and for all! Too many injustices were and continue to be placed upon the people of Hawaii (borned and raised)! Let it be a reminder that you are public servants who are **WORK FOR THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII!** It is time that the state of HAWAII be like the 24 states that have law(s) prohibiting non-residents/foreigners/mainlanders(US continent) too own property in their states. **IT IS TIME FOR YOU (THE LEGISLATURE) TO MAKE HAWAII A PRIORITY ONCE AND FOR ALL!!!**

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:37:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clarisse Sullivan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Based on the current laws, SB 2617, if passed, would be in violation of the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, **national origin**, religion, gender identity sexual orientation, familial status and disability . It would also be in violation of Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which states that "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or **property**, without due process of law; **nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.**"

The passing of this bill may have broader economic impacts which can stifle the creation of affordable housing in Hawai'i for Hawai'i residents in the longer term. It also doesn't address the issue of US citizens who are **NOT** Hawai'i Residents buying property in Hawai'i only to have it rented out (money leaving the state) or worse lay vacant and unused when so many folks who actually live and work here need homes. I think it is unfair to point the finger to one group of people ie non-US citizens and think they are the sole source of the problem, and that discriminating against them would would fix the very complex housing crisis.

The bill also does not consider the nuances of folk's immigration statuses. Would the bill prohibit people who are waiting for their permanent residency status/ have a pending status change application from purchasing a home? Will people who live and work in Hawai'i but are on dual-intent employment visas H-1B, L-1 and O-1 be allowed to get a mortgage to purchase a home in Hawai'i? Given that [18% of the Hawai'i popluation are immigrants](#) who are vital to Hawai'i's blue-collar workforce and economy, these nuances and questions need to also be considered. Not every foreign national is drowning in money. There are those who came to Hawai'i for a better life, they live and work here, they have built a community and family here and are taking steps to fully integrate and immigrate. What happens to these working class individuals that are also supporting their families and saving up for their dream home who are not as wealthy as out-state-residents (foreign or not)?

Given all this, I oppose SB2617 as it does not actually aim to fix the issue of wealthy upper-class out-of-state residents/corporations from buying up all the homes in Hawaii. Again, there are working class non-US citizens/individuals that are in fact based in Hawaii who legally live and work here and help fuel the economy. "Othering" them is not the way forward.

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:39:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marylyn Kaleiwahea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Marylyn Kaleiwahea n I am kanaka maoli of Hawaii. I am in support of this bill because this bill might make it possible to actually buy a home here where I was born n raised . I have Hawaiian blood but not 50% as is required for Hawaiian Homelands for me to be eligible . And I also think the percentage of Hawaiian blood to be eligible is not fair n should be changed. So other than this bill, it is unrealistic for me to ever be able to buy a home or land here because I will never be able to afford it. If this bill is not passed, outsiders will end up owning all the land we have left because us Kanaka can't compete with the prices that other people pay and that's also why so many of our people have been forced to move away simply because they can't afford it which is a shame.Even allowing foreigners to buy homes in our neighborhoods n them turning them into air bnbs isn't right. They say that there is a shortage of affordable homes but I see homes for sale here all the time but affordable for who? Not us kanaka maoli. We can't afford land to build because it's priced for outsiders. Everybody Wants to make money on our land and forget about our people. I believe that this bill will also be able to help our people in Maui that have been affected by the wildfires in a positive way n give them hope to be able to rebuild or at least not be priced out of Hawaii, their home. We have to start looking out for our own indigenous people already. Passing this bill might also restore faith in our people regarding u politicians who always claim to have the best interest of the people of Hawaii in ur hearts n minds. If u truly serve in the best interest of the people of Hawaii, u will vote in favor of this bill no matter what side of the aisle u sit on. Please do the right thing n vote in support of this bill because it's the right thing to do if u stand on what's best for the people of Hawaii.

Thank You for your time and consideration,Marylyn
Kaleiwahea(single mom n grandmother n proud Hawaiian born n raised)