

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

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
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 House Committee on
FINANCE

Monday, February 24, 2025
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1358, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST WORKING GROUP

House Bill 1358, House Draft 2 proposes to appropriate moneys to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to facilitate the hiring of necessary staff and the purchase of equipment and professional services on behalf of the Public Land Trust Working Group (PLTWG). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

The PLTWG was established by Act 226, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, to conduct a comprehensive accounting of all ceded lands in the Public Land Trust and determine the share of income and proceeds due annually to OHA. The Department recognizes the importance of this work and has actively participated in the PLTWG's efforts. The PLTWG Interim Report was submitted to the Legislature in December 2024 and recommended an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to fund third-party professionals to help complete the PLTWG's work. The funding proposed in this bill will help the PLTWG fulfill its mandate under Act 226.

The Department developed and maintains the Public Land Trust Information System (PLTIS). The Department acknowledges that the PLTIS is reliant on data provided by various agencies and does not independently audit or verify the data provided, nor make any representations regarding the accuracy of the data contained in the PLTIS. If errors in the PLTIS are identified, the appropriate agency managing the lands must correct the error and submit the corrected data to the Department for inclusion in the PLTIS.

The PLTWG's review has not identified specific errors in the PLTIS to date, but the Department remains committed to working with OHA and the PLTWG to improve the accuracy, transparency, and completeness of the PLTIS.

Furthermore, with respect to parcels that may have multiple public land trust classifications, i.e. portions of the parcel are both ceded and non-ceded, the Department notes that it has uncovered very few parcels with multiple public land trust classifications. Finally, regardless of the accuracy of data contained within the PLTIS, the Department provides an accounting of ceded land revenues received and paid to OHA through the annual Act 178 report submitted annually to the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1358 HD2
Relating to the Public Land Trust Working Group

House Committee on Finance

February 24, 2025

2:00 p.m.

Room 308

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for setting HB1358 HD2, which is part of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs's (OHA's) 2025 legislative priorities, for public hearing. OHA submits this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB1358 HD2**, which appropriates funds to OHA to hire a third-party expert to audit the public land trust inventory and the accounting practices used to calculate OHA's pro rate share of public land trust revenues.

HB1358 was introduced with the unanimous consent of the Public Lands Trust Working Group (PLTWG). The PLTWG was established by Act 226 in 2022, to:

- (1) Account for all ceded lands in the public land trust inventory;
- (2) Account for all income and proceeds from the public land trust; and
- (3) Subsequently determine the twenty per cent pro rata share of income and proceeds from the public land trust due annually to [OHA] for the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians.

Act 226, § 3. **The PLTWG unanimously agreed that a third-party audit is necessary to complete the working group's scope of work, as defined above.**

It is well recognized that the State of Hawai'i is paying OHA only a small fraction of the annual public land trust revenues, and not the full 20% that OHA is entitled to under law. As set forth in greater detail in HB1358 HD2, section 1, the PLTWG was created to help the State of Hawai'i fulfill its trust duties to Native Hawaiians as established in the Admissions Act, the Hawai'i State Constitution, and Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 10, by performing the work necessary to ensure that OHA receives its 20%. The \$1 million requested by the PLTWG for a third-party audit is what is necessary for the State of Hawai'i to resolve longstanding disputes over the accuracy of the public land trust inventory.

Right now, OHA receives \$21.5 million per year. A 2016 audit commissioned by OHA at its own expense showed the amount due to OHA *at that time* was \$78.9 million. In the absence of accurate and uniform inventory and accounting practices, the gap between what is rightly due to OHA and what is being paid to OHA will only continue to grow. **We ask that you help to bring closure to this problem by authorizing and funding the hiring of a third-party expert to determine the accurate pro rata share due to OHA as required by Hawai'i State law.**

Mahalo again for the Committee's consideration of this bill. OHA respectfully requests that that the Committee **pass and fund** this measure.

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 6:38:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Tsuji	Department of Land and Natural Resources	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

DLNR has already submitted testimony for HB1358 HD2 on the main testimony account. Requesting a zoom link for additional staff to provide backup testimony at the hearing.



Committee: Finance
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, February 24, 2025, at 2:00pm
Place: Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of H.B. 1358
H.D. 2 Relating to the Public Land Trust Working Group**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members:

The ACLU of Hawai'i is in **support of H.B.1358 H.D. 2**. Transparency is vital to good governance. It is especially important given the constitutional public trust requirements that the State and its agencies are tasked with. Funding the public land trust working group to accurately determine public lands is sorely needed to ensure that these lands are being used in accordance with the public's interest and to ensure credibility and accuracy when calculating OHA proceeds.

Article XI §1 of the Hawai'i Constitution is clear that "all public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people." The public land trust is comprised of former crown and government lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Given that the State of Hawai'i has trust duties to Native Hawaiians as established in the Admissions Act, the Hawai'i State Constitution, and numerous laws, it is necessary to have a full and accurate accounting of what these public natural resources are.

On a practical level, an audit of public trust land will also help determine if the State is using the land in a way that allows for "public use, access, and enjoyment" and "consistent with trust purposes" (*In re Water Use Permit Applications*, 94 Haw. 97, 132 (Haw. 2000)). As most recently stated in *Ching v. Case*, the State has a duty to aloha 'Āina, to steward and care for the land. This includes actively monitoring land and ensuring that it is being preserved and being used in the public interest, even when these lands are being leased to other people. Being able to audit public lands and better understand how they are being used is an important step in the right direction to fulfill public trust responsibilities. **Please support H.B. 1358 H.D. 2.**

Sincerely,

Nathan Lee
Policy Legislative Fellow

Carrie Ann Shirota
Policy Director

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization founded in 1965 that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds.

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:26:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Vasconcellos	Hana Health	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hana Health is located in one of the most isolated, rural areas in the state, primarily serving low income Native Hawaiians. Chronic underfunding shortchanges OHA's programs that could potentially benefit Native Hawaiians residing in the Hana District, especially those to improve health outcomes. We strongly encourage support for HB1358. Thank you.



Re: HB No. 1358 HD2 – Relating to the Public Land Trust Working Group

Aloha Chair Yamashita and members of the Committee on Finance,

On behalf of the Prince Kuhio Hawaiian Civic Club, I respectfully submit our strong **SUPPORT** for H.B. No. 1358 H.D. 2. This important measure seeks to appropriate funds to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) for the hiring of necessary staff, the purchase of equipment, and the securing of professional services to support the Public Land Trust Working Group (Working Group). This initiative is essential to ensuring that the management and allocation of ceded lands and the income derived from them are handled accurately and transparently.

The Native Hawaiian community has been denied access to their trust resources for decades. The revenue generated from the Public Land Trust (PLT) is the primary source of funding for programs, grants, and services that directly benefit Native Hawaiians through OHA. This revenue also has a positive impact on all of Hawai‘i, supporting programs that foster economic development, cultural preservation, and community well-being. However, as noted in the measure, the current Public Land Trust Information System (PLTIS), developed and maintained by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, relies on self-reported data from state agencies and counties. Without an independent audit to review the accuracy and completeness of the PLTIS, we must take steps to ensure the data used to determine the pro rata share due to OHA is reliable and comprehensive.

By appropriating funds for a third-party review of the PLTIS, this measure will support the Working Group in accurately determining the rightful share of income and proceeds due to OHA. This is essential for ensuring that Native Hawaiians receive their fair share of trust resources. Based on current data, the estimated annual appropriation for OHA is \$35 million. However, this figure is likely to be higher once the third-party review is completed and the PLTIS is fully evaluated. The findings from this review will provide a clearer, more accurate assessment of the funds owed, ensuring fairness and accountability.

Furthermore, raising the appropriation to the legally mandated amount will support a wider range of strategic and innovative programs, including housing, healthcare, education, business development, and job opportunities. These programs will significantly improve the well-being and conditions of Native Hawaiians and, by extension, all of Hawai‘i.

We respectfully urge your committee to support this measure and recommend the proposed appropriation of \$1,000,000 to ensure the success of the Working Group’s efforts. This funding

will help to partially fulfill the long-overdue promise of justice for the Native Hawaiian community and support initiatives that have a lasting positive impact on all of Hawai'i.

Founded in 1964, PKHCC was organized to promote the education and social welfare of people of Hawaiian ancestry. Its objectives include supporting high ethical standards in business, industry, and the professional fields of enterprise.

PKHCC urges the committee to pass H.B. No. 1358 H.D. 2. Mahalo for your attention and consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Norman Llanos
Pelekikena
president@pkhcc.org

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 11:20:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine SanJose	Kahua O Kakou, Hui (Corp) Humu'ula Kala'i'eha LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in support of HB1358 HD2 for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA's work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai'i Admissions Act, the Hawai'i State Constitution, and Hawai'i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Elaine P.K. SanJose

████████████████████

████████████████████████████

██

████████████████████

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 11:58:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Custino	Moanalua Gardens Foundation, Inc. dba MGF Hawai'i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Re: HB No. 1358 HD2 – Relating to the Public Land Trust Working Group

Aloha Chair Yamashita and members of the Committee on Finance,

On behalf of the Moanalua Gardens Foundation, I humbly submit our strong **SUPPORT** for H.B. No. 1358 H.D. 2. Seeking to appropriate funds to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) for the hiring of necessary staff, the purchase of equipment, and the securing of professional services to support the Public Land Trust Working Group (Working Group); this initiative is essential to ensuring that the management and allocation of ceded lands and the income derived from them are handled accurately and transparently.

The revenue generated from the Public Land Trust (PLT) is the primary source of funding for programs, grants, and services that directly benefit Native Hawaiians through OHA. However, as noted in the measure, the current Public Land Trust Information System (PLTIS), developed and maintained by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, relies on self-reported data from state agencies and counties. Without an independent audit to review the accuracy and completeness of the PLTIS, we must take steps to ensure the data used to determine the pro rata share due to OHA is reliable and comprehensive.

This measure will support the Working Group in accurately determining the rightful share of income and proceeds due to OHA. This is essential for ensuring that Native Hawaiians receive their fair share of trust resources. Based on current data, the estimated annual appropriation for OHA is \$35 million. However, this figure is likely to be higher once the third-party review is completed and the PLTIS is fully evaluated.

Furthermore, raising the appropriation to the legally mandated amount will support a wider range of strategic and innovative programs, including housing, healthcare, education, business development, and job opportunities. We respectfully urge your committee to support this measure and recommend the proposed appropriation of \$1,000,000 to ensure the success of the Working Group's efforts.

Founded in 1970, The Moanalua Gardens Foundation was established, in part, to protect the precious wahi pana of Moanalua Valley and other precious resources vital to Hawaiians and all people of Hawai'i. As Aloha 'Āina (those who care for the land), it is our kuleana

(responsibility) to protect and speak for all wahi pana. We support OHA in this sacred duty and believe that this measure fulfills the State's obligations and helps OHA to perform its legally required duty.

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation urges the committee to pass H.B. No. 1358 H.D. 2. Mahalo for your attention and consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Ian Keali'i Custino

*Executive Director
Moanalua Gardens Foundation*

ian@mgfhawaii.org



**Ko'olauloa
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB**
P.O. Box 532
Hau'ula, Hawaii 96717

February 23, 2025

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing on behalf of the Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club's President and membership to **support of HB1358 HD2** for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA's work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai'i Admissions Act, the Hawai'i State Constitution, and Hawai'i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, **OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.** As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Raynae M. Fonoimoana
Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club Pelekikena
Email: khcc532@gmail.com
Phone: 808 218-4462

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:28:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Pughes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in **support of HB1358 HD2** for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA’s work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai‘i Admissions Act, the Hawai‘i State Constitution, and Hawai‘i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, **OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.** As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aaron Pughes

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:30:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in strong **support of HB1358 HD2**. My three reasons are:

1) Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and ensure that OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

2) Funding OHA's work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole, correcting a moral wrong, and the effects of unjust treatment since the illegal take over and imprisonment of Queen Lili'uokalani.

3) Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai'i Admissions Act, the Hawai'i State Constitution, and Hawai'i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, **OHA has received only a fraction of this amount.**

I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Tadia Rice [REDACTED]

February 22, 2025

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in support of HB1358 HD2 for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA's work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai'i Admissions Act, the Hawai'i State Constitution, and Hawai'i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, OHA only receives a fraction of this amount. As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Anita Mae K. Naone

████████████████████

██

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:43:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Ahina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in **support of HB1358 HD2** for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA’s work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai’i Admissions Act, the Hawai’i State Constitution, and Hawai’i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, **OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.** As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Tanya Ahina



HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:59:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in **support of HB1358 HD2** for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA’s work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai‘i Admissions Act, the Hawai‘i State Constitution, and Hawai‘i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, **OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.** As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Michael Thomas



HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:22:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lion Fiyah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in **support of HB1358 HD2** for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA's work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai'i Admissions Act, the Hawai'i State Constitution, and Hawai'i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, **OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.** As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ryan Rodrigues



HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:45:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Long overdue funds to Native Hawaiians. Need to ensure accurate accounting and that the trust fund is distributed according to law.

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:53:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in **support of HB1358 HD2** for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA’s work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai‘i Admissions Act, the Hawai‘i State Constitution, and Hawai‘i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, **OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.** As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jessica dos Santos

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 12:04:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Cooper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's as simple as this: Hawaiians deserve what is and has been promised, on demand.

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 12:24:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ahia Dye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in **support of HB1358 HD2** for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA’s work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai’i Admissions Act, the Hawai’i State Constitution, and Hawai’i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, **OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.** As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

‘Āhia Dye



HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 12:33:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 12:44:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahaleno Kamalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in support of HB1358 HD2 for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA's work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai'i Admissions Act, the Hawai'i State Constitution, and Hawai'i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, OHA only receives a fraction of this amount. As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kahalenoe Kamalani



HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 12:45:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimo Cashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in **support of HB1358 HD2** for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA’s work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai‘i Admissions Act, the Hawai‘i State Constitution, and Hawai‘i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, **OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.** As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kimo Cashman, PhD

Wahiawā, HI

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 12:48:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica T. L. Morris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in **support of HB1358 HD2** for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA’s work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai‘i Admissions Act, the Hawai‘i State Constitution, and Hawai‘i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, **OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.** As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Monica T.L. Morris

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 12:51:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aloha McGuffie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 22, 2025

Hawai‘i State Legislature

House Committee on Finance

Chair Kyle T. Yamashita

Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi

Members of the House Committee on Finance

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in **support of HB1358 HD2** for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA’s work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai‘i Admissions Act, the Hawai‘i State Constitution, and Hawai‘i State law, OHA is entitled to 20%

of all revenues from the public land trust, however, **OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.** As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha

Aloha McGuffie

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:05:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in **support of HB1358 HD2** for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA’s work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai‘i Admissions Act, the Hawai‘i State Constitution, and Hawai‘i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, **OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.** As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Dr. Gail D. Silva

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:47:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark McGuffie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1358 HD2.

Mahalo piha,

Mark McGuffie

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:00:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Chinen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! Though not Native Hawaiian by blood, I am a local boy who's 70 years old and a third generation Okinawan. It is with a deep sense of gratitude to say that I have been born and raised here and to have lived here for 59 of my 70 years, where Aloha and Native Hawaiian Culture have -- and continue to -- inspire me. I'm a retired DOE school counselor and a retired military combat veteran. I mention all of this in order to reflect my care and love for Hawai`i Nei and her people.

I fully support HB1358 and look forward to its passing. Mahalo nui loa!

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:34:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Yarbrough	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in **support of HB1358 HD2** for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA’s work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai’i Admissions Act, the Hawai’i State Constitution, and Hawai’i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, **OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.** As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Joy Yarbrough



HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 3:26:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theodora Furtado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in **support of HB1358 HD2** for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA’s work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai‘i Admissions Act, the Hawai‘i State Constitution, and Hawai‘i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, OHA only receives a fraction of this amount, barely 25% of what the State is responsible for in the Trust relationship. As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Theodora Furtado, [REDACTED]

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 3:46:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in **support of HB1358 HD2** for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA’s work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai‘i Admissions Act, the Hawai‘i State Constitution, and Hawai‘i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, **OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.** As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Susan Wong [REDACTED] Kanē'ohe

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 6:15:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenten Kanoa Yamane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in support of HB1358 HD2 for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA's work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai'i Admissions Act, the Hawai'i State Constitution, and Hawai'i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, OHA only receives a fraction of this amount. As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Brenten Yamane



HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 6:17:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Simone Kamaunu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of HB1358 HD2. Please pass this bill. Please support our lāhui to be elevated. Mahalo nui loa Simone‘ Kamaunu

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:17:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Tariao Montano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance, I am writing in support of HB1358 HD2 for the following reasons: (A) Ensuring Transparency and Accountability: HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law. (B) Funding OHA’s work: The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole. (C) Fairness and Justice: This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai’i Admissions Act, the Hawai’i State Constitution, and Hawai’i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, OHA only receives a fraction of this amount. As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. Gerald Montano Kahului, HI

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:39:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealani Makaiwi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in strong support of HB1358 HD2 for the following reasons:

Ending Mismanagement & Ensuring Accountability

For too long, incomplete and inconsistent accounting practices have resulted in OHA not receiving its rightful share of trust revenues. HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System—a necessary step to correct these long-standing failures, ensure full transparency, and hold the State accountable for properly managing trust funds. Mismanagement must stop.

Funding OHA’s Work

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to ensure the State fulfills its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full and accurate funding, OHA cannot effectively carry out its legal mandate to improve conditions for Native Hawaiians, empower communities, and support economic development. The working group has determined that this audit is a critical first step in making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:10:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeline C Neely	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Finance Committee Members; My name is, Madeline Neely, I am in strong support of, HB1358 HD2, and the long over due needed affirmation and passage of this measure to ensure the appropriation funding be allocated to hire the professional and necessary staffing, in addition to, necessary equipment to sucessfully move forward this, Land Trust, locations of ceded lands thru-out the, State of Hawaii, and its inventory for future beneficiaries under the, Admissions Act, as a responsibily of the OHA to distribute accordingly..

Mahalo.

Madeline Neely

Kaaawa, HI 96730

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 3:25:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Germaine Meyers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1358 HD2 for the following reasons:

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

Funding OHA's work:

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole.

Fairness and Justice:

This bill is not just about funding: it's also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai'i Admissions Act, the Hawai'i State Constitution, and Hawai'i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Ke Akua pu,

Germaine Meyers

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 7:18:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1358 ensuring that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) gets their fair share of state revenue. OHA needs these funds to excute and fulfill the mandate places upon them to improve the wellbeing of Native Hawaiians. For too long OHA has not had the resources it's needed to make meaningful and lasting change and now more than ever, it's necessary. Please pass HB1358 and actualize your support for Native Hawaiians.

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 10:45:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Makana Paris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support.

Me ke aloha,

Anthony Makana Paris

Kapolei, Hawaii

Eileen Cain

February 23, 2025

Aloha Chair Yamashita,
Vice Chair Takenouchi, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance,
Hawai'i State House of Representatives

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1358 HD2.**

My name is Eileen Cain, and I have been a resident of Honolulu for nearly 50 years. Although I am haole (caucasian), I believe that the Hawaiian people need to not just survive but thrive here in their own native homeland.

Hawaiian people are owed 20% of the income from the public land trust. But they have not been receiving what is their due each year. When they don't receive their share, they suffer the consequences economically because of insufficient funds for programs designed to improve their well-being.

Solution: Since the government needs to abide by the law, an important step in that direction is to conduct an independent third-party audit, as recommended by the Public Land Trust Working Group. Such an audit of those trust lands and the income from those lands would provide an accurate accounting of the revenues due to the Hawaiian people.

HB 1358 HD2 can help to right a wrong. It is not just a "historic" wrong – it is a current and ongoing wrong, and we all need to ensure fairness for the Hawaiian people.

I urge the Committee to **PASS HB 1358 HD2**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

Aloha,

Eileen Cain

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

the House Committee on Finance,

My name is U'ilani Naipo and I am writing in support of HB1358 HD2.

HB1358 HD2 is to promote fairness and justice. Under the Hawai'i Admissions Act, the Hawai'i Constitution, and Hawai'i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, OHA only receives a fraction of this amount.

The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State of Hawai'i accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its legal mandates to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiian and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step.

HB1358 HD2 will provide funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary transparent step to ensure that OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law.

As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD1 to right this wrong.

Respectfully,

U'ilani Naipo

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 5:57:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mana Kaleilani Caceres	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB1358 HD2

I strongly oppose HB1358 HD2, which seeks to reduce the number of Island Burial Council (IBC) members from nine to seven and remove designated seats for large landowners and developers.

While this bill was intended to strengthen council oversight and improve quorum, it fails to address the real challenges in protecting iwi kūpuna.

Under HRS §6E-43.5(b), Kānaka ‘Ōiwi already hold a secured majority on the IBC, with no less than a 2-to-1 ratio over development and landowner representatives. Removing these seats does not enhance Native Hawaiian decision-making power—it eliminates a key opportunity to hold developers and landowners accountable while removing a critical space for education and direct engagement on the appropriate treatment of iwi kūpuna.

The core issue is not the council’s composition but the State’s systemic failure to enforce burial protection laws and support the IBC. The 2023 Burial Sites Working Group report highlighted the real barriers: delays in appointing members, lack of enforcement against burial law violations, and inadequate support for IBC operations. Reducing the council’s size will not fix these issues and may worsen quorum problems if vacancies remain unfilled.

Rather than amending HRS §6E-43.5(b), a more effective approach would be ensuring OHA takes a direct stewardship role in protecting iwi kūpuna and enforcing compliance with burial laws. HB1358 HD2 does nothing to resolve these failures—it only reduces council membership while iwi kūpuna remain at risk.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to reject HB1358 HD2

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:41:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
India cote	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1358 HD2

nuff already let the Hawaiians support Hawaiians let's OHA continue to support Hawaii its people and its generations to come !

HB-1358-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:04:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuulei Kamalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance, I am writing in support of HB1358 HD2 for the following reasons: Ensuring Transparency and Accountability: HB1358 HD2 provides funding for an independent third-party audit of the Public Land Trust Inventory System. This is a necessary step to correct decades of incomplete or inconsistent accounting practices and to ensure OHA receives its full 20% share of trust revenues as required by law. Funding OHA’s work: The Public Land Trust Working Group was established to hold the State accountable for its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians. Without full funding, OHA cannot fulfill its mandates under law to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and advance community empowerment and economic development. The working group determined this audit is a necessary first step to making OHA whole. Fairness and Justice: This bill is not just about funding: it’s also about fairness and justice. Under the Hawai’i Admissions Act, the Hawai’i State Constitution, and Hawai’i State law, OHA is entitled to 20% of all revenues from the public land trust, however, OHA only receives a fraction of this amount. As an OHA beneficiary and a voter, I urge the committee to pass HB1358 HD2 to help right this wrong.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kuulei Kamalani

████████████████████

██