

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
WATER & LAND

Tuesday, January 28, 2025
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 411 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 305
RELATING TO LAND RESTORATION

House Bill 305 establishes within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) the Aloha Aina Land Trust to rehabilitate and manage lands transferred by the United States military to the State after the leases for those lands expire. **The Department opposes this measure.**

While the Department appreciates the Legislature's desire to rehabilitate and manage lands potentially returned by the United States military, forming the Aloha Aina Land Trust at this time is premature.

The United States Department of Defense (USDOD) indicated its desire to retain lands currently leased after the expiration date of the existing leases. USDOD published its Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) for Army Training Land Retention on State Lands on O'ahu in *The Environmental Notice* on July 23, 2021. USDOD's proposed land retention includes Kahuku Training Area, Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, and Mākua Military Reservation.¹ Other USDOD agencies are also in the process of preparing Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) or Environmental Assessments (EA) as part of their land retention efforts.

Recognizing that the public has raised concerns regarding the continued status of the USDOD use of State public lands, including ceded lands, the Department has initiated discussions with USDOD on the Department's land disposition process, including environmental compliance, cultural impact statements, *Ka Pa'akai* analysis, and expectations of proactive and extensive community engagement by USDOD.

¹ There have been preliminary discussions with the Army about alternatives to leasing, including the possibility of a land exchange as an option being explored.

The lease renewal process involves multiple levels of significant public consultation on the part of USDOD. In addition to preparing an EIS or EA, USDOD will likely need to secure Conservation District Use Permits, Incidental Take Licenses, and Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) approval of Habitat Conservation Plans. Each of these processes includes public consultation beyond what the EIS process requires. The Department would prefer to let these processes play out. Ultimately, if USDOD completes all mandated processes, the Board would make decisions on any requested future dispositions, such as new leases, at a duly-noticed, open meeting at which the public would have an additional opportunity to testify and potentially request contested cases.

The Department appreciates the Legislature's desire to create the Aloha Aina Land Trust to rehabilitate and manage lands transferred by the United States military to the State after the leases for those lands expire, should such transitions be the outcome of the process described above. However, the Department believes that it would be premature to form the Aloha Aina Land Trust at this time as USDOD has not yet had the opportunity to pursue the normal approval and permitting processes discussed above. These processes provide an ideal opportunity to engage the public on any additional provisions that should be included in potential dispositions, such as ensuring fair market value rent, cleanup, self-reporting, and inspection requirements.

Subsection 171-G at page 5, lines 5-11, of this measure requires the State to transfer management and control of returned lands to the "sovereign native Hawaiian entity upon its recognition by the United States and the State of Hawaii". The Department notes that Section 5(e) of the Admission Act provides a framework for lands no longer needed by the United States to be conveyed to the State. Any such lands would return to the State through the Board and be held in trust for the benefit of all people in Hawai'i, not limited to a sovereign Hawaiian entity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill 305.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

January 26, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB305: Relating to Land Restoration

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Melodie Aduja, and I am testifying on behalf of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii in strong support of HB305, which aims to create the Aloha Aina Land Trust. This bill is a significant step towards rehabilitating and managing lands transferred by the United States military to the State after the leases for those lands expire.

Key Points of Support:

1. **Environmental Restoration:** HB305 will ensure that lands previously used by the military are rehabilitated and restored to their natural state. This is crucial for preserving Hawaii's unique ecosystem and biodiversity.
2. **Cultural Preservation:** The Aloha Aina Land Trust will prioritize the integration of indigenous knowledge and traditional practices in the management of these lands. This will help preserve Hawaii's cultural heritage and support the continuation of cultural practices.
3. **Community Involvement:** The bill emphasizes community-led stewardship, ensuring that local communities have a say in how these lands are managed and restored. This will foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among residents.
4. **Economic Benefits:** By promoting ecological restoration and regenerative agriculture, HB305 will create job opportunities and support local economies. The Trust will also enhance local food production, contributing to food security and sustainability.
5. **Funding and Support:** The bill appropriates funds for the establishment and operation of the Aloha Aina Land Trust, ensuring that it has the necessary resources to achieve its goals.

In conclusion, the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports HB305 and urges the committee to pass this important legislation. By creating the Aloha Aina Land Trust, we can ensure a sustainable and thriving future for Hawaii's lands and communities.

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

Sincerely,

Melodie Aduja
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 11:18:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melinda Healani Sonoda-Pale	Ka Lahui Hawai'i	Support	In Person

Comments:

January 28, 2025

Before the House Committee on Land and Water

Regarding: House Bill 305

Relating to: Land Restoration

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee,

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i (KLH), a Kanaka Maoli initiative for self-determination and self-governance formed in 1987, fully supports House Bill 305.

One hundred percent of the lands that the U.S. Military currently leases from the “State of Hawai‘i” are “ceded lands” or Hawaiian Kingdom lands, taken without the consent or compensation of Hawai‘i’s indigenous people (U.S. Public Law 103-150). These military leases, covering approximately 30,000 acres, are set to begin expiring in August 2029. The U.S. Military leases these lands on the islands of O‘ahu, Kaua‘i, Maui, and Hawai‘i from the “State of Hawai‘i.”

In 2024, the U.S. Army conducted a series of public hearings on their Draft Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) regarding the retention of 6,322 acres of “state” lands at Mākua Military Reservation (MMR), Kahuku Training Area (KTA), and Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area, as well as 23,000 acres at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA). These Draft EIS documents identified these lands as habitats for endangered and threatened species and outlined scenarios for partial retention. For instance, one scenario for O‘ahu proposed retaining only 162 acres in Mākua Valley while relinquishing KTA and the Kawaihoa-Poamoho Training Area altogether. Similarly, the PTA Draft EIS suggested retaining only 10,100 acres of the 23,000 acres currently leased.

Regardless of one’s stance on the military lease issue, there must be a mechanism in place to receive, rehabilitate, restore, and remediate lands that may not be retained by the U.S. Military. Remediation is particularly critical, as it is well known that the U.S. Military seldom returns lands in a usable condition. This remediation must be funded by the U.S. Military.

The U.S. Military forcibly removed inhabitants from areas such as Mākua starting in the 1920s, beginning with the ‘ohana of Kahueai (L.C.A. 9052). By 1942, the remaining inhabitants of Mākua were also removed, with reports of some families being forcibly removed at gunpoint. To this day, descendants lament their inability to return to their traditional lands and visit the graves of their family members. To address this injustice, it is vital that the first right of return, once leases expire or if partial retention occurs, is granted to the kuleana landowners.

Similar to the process established for Kaho‘olawe, military lands returned upon the expiration of state leases in 2029 should be held in trust until they are transferred to a sovereign Kanaka Maoli entity. Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i strongly supports the precedent set by Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §6K-9 for Kaho‘olawe and advocates for its extension to any lands returned from expiring U.S. Military leases.

We respectfully and strongly urge this committee to pass HB 305."

With gratitude and commitment to justice,

**Healani Sonoda-Pale
Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i**

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:14:02 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Fujiyoshi	Ohana Ho`opakele	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a retired Christian pastor of the Ola`a First Hawaiian Church and as an officer of Ohana Ho`opakele, a native Hawaiian organization based on Hawaii Island, I strongly support this bill relating to land restoration!

I applaud those who initiated this bill!

As an advocate of justice, I have been concerned over the detrimental effects of the explosions on the Pohakuloa Training Area by the U.S. military. This bill will lay the groundwork for the proper use of this land. At a time when the world is concerned about the negative effects of Climate Change, this bill addresses this but a focus on the restoration of the land that the US military has destroyed and desecrated.

The lands in question, especially at the Pohakuloa Training Area, were Government and Crown Lands under the Kingdom of Hawaii. This bill will have the lands used in a way that respects the designation of these lands that were originally determined by the Great Mahele initiated in 1848.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo for allowing me to testify!

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:06:23 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Rodrigues	RODRIGUES OHANA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

MILITARY HAS TAKEN LANDS DURNING MARTIAL LAW WITH NO INTENTION OF RETURNING TO PEOPLE OF HAWAII. THERE WAS A MECHANIZM FOR TAKING BUT MILITARY SAY THERE IS NO WAY TO RETURN LANDS. CREATING THE PATH FOR HAWAII TO RECLAIM ALL TAKEN LANDS BY ILLEGAL USA OCCUPATION MUST BE ESTABLISHED NOW!



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

January 28, 2025

9:00 AM

Conference Room 411

In **SUPPORT** of **HB305**: RELATING TO LAND RESTORATION

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Water & Land Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i SUPPORTS HB305, which provides a vision and plan for the remediation and use of lands currently leased to the United States Department of Defense.

Our public lands are held in trust for the benefit of present and future generations, and our public land trust lands are also to be administered for the benefit of native Hawaiians and the public. Government entities, including but not limited to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), therefore have fiduciary obligations to apply standards of due diligence, prudent decisionmaking, and undivided loyalty in the management and protection of these lands.

Unfortunately, as has been recognized in recent years including by the Hawai'i Supreme Court¹ and Hawai'i State Auditor,² the DLNR has in many instances failed to apply an appropriate standard of care in overseeing the use of public trust and public land trust lands leased to third party entities, including and particularly for lands leased to the United States Department of Defense. Notably, the DLNR has not developed a vision, much less a plan, for the future use of these latter lands, if and when their leases expire – despite these lands' cultural significance, and the cultural and ecological harms that have been inflicted upon them.

Accordingly, this measure creates a framework for the remediation and use of public trust and public land trust lands leased to the military that can better help uphold the state's fiduciary obligations and the interests and rights of Kānaka 'Ōiwi and the public.

The Sierra Club does recommend consulting with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and other appropriate experts in land title, lease enforcement, remediation costs, and other relevant areas to ensure this measure best meets the needs of public trust and public land trust beneficiaries - including but not limited to ensuring that the costs of remediation are borne by the parties legally responsible for any such needs.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB305.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

¹ See *Ching v. Case*, 449 P.3d. 1146 (Hawai'i 2019).

² See HAWAI'I STATE AUDITOR, 19-12, AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIAL LAND DEVELOPMENT FUND (2019).



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the House Water & Land Committee,

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawaii

Tony Vera
East Hawaii

Puna, Hawaii

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawaii

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawaii

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lana'i

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB305.**

HB305 is an essential legislative initiative that seeks to ensure the responsible stewardship and revitalization of lands transitioning from military use back to state control. The creation of the Aloha Aina Land Trust represents a visionary approach to land management that aligns with Hawaii's deeply rooted cultural values and sustainable practices. By focusing on rehabilitation and integrative management, this trust will not only restore ecological balance to these lands but also enhance local food security and empower communities through regenerative agriculture opportunities. Hawaii's farmers understand that healthy soil and well-managed ecosystems are foundational to a resilient agricultural sector, and the trust's work will directly contribute to these objectives.

Moreover, the appropriation of funds to support the Aloha Aina Land Trust signals a commitment to preserving our natural heritage and investing in the future of Hawaii's agricultural community. These lands offer a unique potential to be transformed into productive, sustainable agricultural spaces that support local farmers and contribute to regional food sovereignty. The trust will provide a structured and long-term framework to facilitate this transformation by using innovative, place-based management strategies. In doing so, it will foster economic growth within rural communities and provide the state with increased opportunities to expand its capacity for local food production. This bill not only addresses the immediate need for land restoration but also champions a legacy of environmental stewardship and community empowerment that will benefit Hawaii for generations to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:52:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Greenpeace Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair [Hashem](#), Vice Chair [Lamosao](#), Representative [Belatti](#), [Representative Ichiyama](#), [Representative Iwamoto](#), [Representative Morikawa](#), [Representative Poepoe](#), [Representative Woodson](#), [Representative Shimizu](#), [Representative Souza](#),

On behalf of Greenpeace Hawaii's members and supporters statewide we stand in STRONG SUPPORT of HB350 that “Creates the Aloha Aina Land Trust to rehabilitate and manage lands transferred by the United States military to the State after the leases for those lands expires.”

Kanaka Maoli have been waiting for 130 years for the return of their stolen lands. They've waited long enough, please vote yes and return Hawaiian Crown Lands to their rightful owners.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulinix, CoFounder & State Representative

Greenpeace Hawaii

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:00:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Wake	Hawaii United Methodist Acts of Repentance Task Force	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support this bill and the non-renewal of military leases on Hawaiian lands.



House Committee on Water and Land

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: HB305

January 28th, 2025 at 9:00am; Conference Room 411

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

HAPA is testifying in strong support of HB305 which creates the Aloha Aina Land Trust to rehabilitate and manage lands transferred by the United States military to the State after the leases for those lands expire.

The State currently leases over 30,000 acres of land including Pōhakuloa Training Area, Maui Space Surveillance Site as well as remote experimental sites, Mākua Military Reservation, Kahuku Training Area, Kawailoa-Poamoho Training Areas, Mākaha Ridge, Pacific Missile Range Facility, Miloi'i Ridge, Kamokala Ridge and Kōke'e Air Force Station. The expiration of the US military leases between 2028-2030 provides an opportunity to re-envision a better future for Hawaii's lands and natural resources. Hawaii's lands leased to the military have been severely degraded and are in desperate need of rehabilitation.

Impacts of Military Footprint in Hawai'i

Hawai'i is one of the most militarized states in the US, about 5% across Hawai'i and 21% of the lands on O'ahu.¹ U.S. Military stewardship of Hawai'i's lands and waters has been largely disastrous.

The repeated and unaddressed failure of the U.S. Navy's bulk fuel storage tanks led to the contamination of the largest aquifer on the island of O'ahu at Kapūkakī that supplies roughly 40% of the island's residents. The tanks were only decommissioned after widespread public outcry and poisonings of military families and other residents.

In 2018 the Hawai'i Supreme Court found that Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources "breached its trust duty to mālama 'āina with respect to the lands the state leases to the U.S. Army" at the Pōhakuloa Training Area. The U.S. Army violated the lease terms which include provisions to "make every reasonable effort to . . . remove or deactivate all live or blank ammunition upon completion of a training exercise or prior to entry by the said public, whichever is sooner" and to "remove or bury all trash, garbage or other waste materials." Additionally the presence of depleted uranium in the soil at Pōhakuloa is consistently churned up and aerosolized during live fire exercises and blown across the island. Exposure to depleted uranium is linked to cancer.

¹ <https://kawaiola.news/cover/pohakuloa-a-land-besieged/>



For over 80 years the military occupation of Mākuā Valley in West O‘ahu restricted community access to sacred sites, while desecrating its sacred cultural sites, and destroyed sensitive ecological habitat with wildfires, bombs, and bullets.

Time for Better Stewardship of Hawai‘i’s Lands and Waters

HB308 proposes an opportunity to appropriately care for Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources, while centering equity and restoration for Kanaka ‘Ōiwi communities whose lands were taken without consent or compensation. Landback efforts not only begin to address historic injustices, but also support biodiversity and conservation efforts that are intrinsic to ‘Ōiwi natural management practices.

Please support HB305.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Anne Frederick,
Executive Director

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:43:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Albertini	Malu 'Aina	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our organization stands in strong support of HB 305. No more leased lands to the military. No land swaps either. Make the military clean up its toxic mess and return the lands to the Hawaiian people. In addition to ending military leases, the executive orders that simply seized Hawaiian lands need to be reversed. At Pohakuloa, 23,000 acres are leased, 84,000 acres were seized at ZERO cost in 1964 under President Lyndon B. Johnson executive order. Kaho'olawe was also taken by Presidential executive order and returned by Presidential executive order under George H.W. Bush.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Jim Albertini, President of Malu ;Aina Center for Non-violent Education & Action

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 5:02:06 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Kapu	Aha Moku O Maui, Lahaina	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou

Our lands where LEASED to the military and know it is time to return them to the rightful people of the land, the KULEANA owners of the original Land Patent. Our Kanaka Maoli need to be returned to there aina instead of being houseless on there own 'Aina and or have to move away because they can't afford it . We are not infavor of a "Aloha "Aina Land Trust" to detemin who gets it . This bill is a start to getting the people on lands after the military cleans it.

Mahalo

U'ilani Kapu

Aha Moku O Maui, Lahaina Chair

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 5:41:48 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilima DeCosta	Hui Malama Pono Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB305; legislation aimed at would restoring 'aina that has been mismanaged and provide an opportunity for new, culturally appropriate land stewardship.

Since before 1893, the US military has used Hawai'i as a staging ground for their Pacific operations and the land has been repeatedly destroyed and contaminated, as a result of poor stewardship by the Department of Defense.

HB305 creates conditions to hold the US military accountable for their poor stewardship and impedes lease renewals where continual non compliance has been shown to exist. The US military should not assume that "might makes right" or that their access to Hawai'i lands is unlimited.

Mahalo for allowing public testimony in support of HB305 and for finally holding the Department of Defense responsible for their lack of transparency and poor land management.

E Malama pono.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 5:59:06 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mele Stokesberry	Maui Peace Action	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support and pass this bill to enable the Aloha ‘Āina Land Trust to rehabilitate and manage lands transferred by the U.S. military to the State after the leases for those lands expire. The lands should go to the original kuleana land owners, if they can be found, or/and ultimately to the Hawaiian nation.



Dear, Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB305. AF3IRM Hawai'i **SUPPORTS this measure** and the creation of an Aloha 'Āina Land Trust, calling for land rehabilitation, restoration, and remediation, and ultimately the return of the land to Kuleana Land Owners and eventually the Hawaiian Nation.

AF3IRM is a transnational feminist organization where Native, Black, and Immigrant women unite to organize against imperialism and colonization because of the violent impacts these systems have on the land, women and girls of color. Indigenous decision-making power over land must be restored to reestablish Indigenous sovereignty and nature's ecosystem. Our earth is dependent on this and if we truly want to address the climate crisis and violence against women, girls and māhū in Hawai'i we must call for the end of U.S. military land leases and for the land to return to its rightful stewards.

The Army leases alone, total 28,892 acres of land on O'ahu and Hawai'i islands and are used for training exercises while half of Kānaka 'Ōiwi and many local families are forced to move to the continent by way of the high cost of living and resources all of which is directly impacted by military occupation including their military housing allowances that distort our rental market.

Native Hawaiian women, girls, and māhū, those closest in an embodiment to mother earth, have endured the brunt of the physical abuse from the military. From part 1 of the [Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women Girls and Māhū \(MMNHWGM\) report](#), 38% of those arrested for soliciting sex from a thirteen-year-old online through Operation Keiki Shield are active-duty military personnel. Because for Indigenous women, girls, māhū, two-spirit folks and our families, these are more than statistics but a shared reality empowered by colonization, upheld by the military and the rape culture it glorifies, an example of this is the surge of sex trafficking and exploitation in Hawai'i during RIMPAC.

We believe that dismantling patriarchy must be at the heart of this struggle if we are to ever truly address these issues. Because we know all too well that where the land is plundered, resources extracted, and poisoned, the women and feminine relatives are decimated as well. We demand the protection of our land and our bodies, we demand an end to the extraction and exploitation of land, water, oceans and kānaka.

Please pass HB305. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Sincerely,
AF3IRM Hawai'i



ASUH
Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i
YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

January 28, 2025

Submitted by: The Associated Students of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Testimony in Support of HB305: RELATING TO LAND RESTORATION

‘Ano‘ai kākou,

This testimony in support of HB305 is being submitted on behalf of the Associated Students of Hawai'i at Mānoa (ASUH). ASUH passed a resolution in August of 2024 in support of the no action alternative by BLNR on the US Army leases, and the restoration and return of lands occupied by the US military to Kānaka Maoli. ASUH supports the creation of an aloha ‘āina land trust as outlined in HB305, along with other measures intended to return these lands upon the expiration of the leases.

See the attached Senate Resolution 01-25 below with specific statements regarding the ongoing desecration of Kānaka Maoli land by the US Army, the legal status of the leased lands, and other environmental justice issues surrounding the continued retention of these lands by the US Army.

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I AT MĀNOA
2465 Campus Road, Campus Center 211A
Honolulu HI 96822

In the Senate
August 30, 2024

Senate Resolution 01-25
For First Reading

IN SUPPORT OF THE END OF U.S. ARMY LEASES ON O‘AHU AT MĀKUA, POAMOHO, KAHUKU

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE:

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Senate is the elected body representing approximately 14,000 full-time classified undergraduate students; and,

WHEREAS, in 1964 the U.S. Army signed 65 year leases for \$1 per lease with the State of Hawai‘i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, for 782 acres at Makua Military Reservation (MMR), 1,150 acres of land at Kahuku Training Area (KTA), and 4,390 acres at Kawailoa-Poamoho Training Area (Poamoho);¹ and

WHEREAS, the US Army leases of lands of “State of Hawai‘i” lands at MMR, KTA, and Poamoho totaling 6,322 acres on the island of O‘ahu are set to expire in 2029; and

WHEREAS, one hundred percent of the 6,322 acres the US Army leases from the State of Hawai‘i at MMR, KTA, and Poamoho are Hawaiian Kingdom Crown and Government lands which were seized by the US Government and transferred to the State of Hawai‘i without the consent of or compensation to the Native Hawaiian people of Hawaii or their sovereign government; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2024, the US Army released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and opened a public comment period which ended on August 7, 2024 to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with retaining these lands O‘ahu and continue military use of the State lands at these three installations on O‘ahu; and

WHEREAS, in the Draft EIS, the US Army admits that there will be “significant adverse impacts” on land use (land tenure) and environmental justice with the retention of any lands at Kahuku, Poamoho, and Mākua;² and

WHEREAS, MMR, Poamoho, and KTA are home to dozens of endangered native organisms and fragile ecosystem and the US military has not been good caretakers of our natural resources, lands, and water (e.g. Red Hill fuel spill); and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, for decades the US Army has been responsible for the desecration of ancient Hawaiian sites and burials and limiting Native Hawaiian cultural access in Mākua, Poamoho, and Kahuku; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, for decades the US Army has been responsible for the desecration of ancient Hawaiian sites and burials and limiting Native Hawaiian cultural access in Mākua, Poamoho, and Kahuku; and

¹ Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration. (1993, November 25). *107 Stat. 1510 - Joint resolution to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the January 17, 1893 overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii, and to offer an apology to Native Hawaiians on behalf of the United States for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii*. [Government]. U.S. Government Printing Office.
<https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/STATUTE-107/STATUTE-107-Pg1510>

² U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2024. “Army Training Land Retention of State Lands at Kahuku Training Area, Kawailoa-Poamoho Training Area, Mākua Military Reservation Island of O‘ahu.” Honolulu, HI.

WHEREAS, the US Army training areas pose a threat to nearby adjacent communities with toxic emissions, noise pollution, and fire risks while perpetuating an ongoing legacy of unexploded ordinance, invasive species, and the contamination of water sources and soil; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the ASUH requests that the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) take no action on the US Army leases of 6,322 acres at MMR, KTA, and Poamoho allowing the leases to expire; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ASUH requests that the US military clean up, restore, and return the lands they occupy to the rightful owners, the Kānaka Maoli people; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, UH President David Lassner, Hawai'i State Governor, Josh Green, the Board of Regents, the University of Hawai'i Student Caucus, Chair Amy Perruso of the House Higher Education and Technology Committee, Chair Donna Mercado Kim of the State Higher Education Committee, U.S. Army Garrison Command, Hawai'i, Congressman Ed Case, Congresswoman Jill Tokuda, Senator Brian Schatz, and Senator Mazie Hirono, UHM Graduate Student Organization, and Ka Leo O Hawai'i.

INTRODUCED BY: Punia Pale, Treasurer

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE SENATE RESOLUTION 01-25

Aye(s): Sen. Akiu, Sen. Watanabe, Sen. Li , Sen. Bachiller, Treasurer Pale, Sen. Espania, Sen. Montero, SAL Bielawski, Sen. Pintor, SAL Sasaki, Sen. Taula [12]

Naye(s): [0]

Abstention(s): [0]

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:59:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Warech	Jewish Voice for Peace-Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Reps Au Belatti, Ichiyama, Iwamoto, Morikawa, Poepoe, Woodson, Shimizu, and Souza,

Jewish Voice for Peace-Hawai'i writes in strong support of this bill and urges the committee to pass it.

JVP Hawai'i is the local chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace- the largest progressive anti-Zionist Jewish organization in the world. The Hawai'i chapter is a grassroots organization of Jews including BIPOC, disabled, queer and Hawaiian jews and allies organizing for a Free Palestine and a Free Hawai'i.

We stand in solidarity with our Hawaiian comrades who helped craft this bill as an imperative process to ensure the transfer of lands back to the stewardship of Kuleana land owners once military leases expire and eventually back to the Hawaiian nation. All military leases had stipulations that the land be returned as it was found yet that has never been done. It is the "state's" responsibility to ensure that processes are in place to rehabilitate and clean up the land given they illegally leased these stolen lands to the military and co-signed their desecration.

The military leases for various lands across islands will end in 2029, there will be no renewal of these leases and planning needs to begin now to ensure their transfer is handled with proper input, oversight, and stewardship by Hawaiians. It is time for land back before the military destroys any more land and ecosystems or wai.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 12:14:49 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailana Moa-eli	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha I Support in Standing For what is Pono. "Aloha 'Aina"

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 4:22:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Preparing to manage military lands that return to Hawai'i custody is incredibly important. We need to be prepared to rehabilitate these lands to sustainable and productive uses for us. With that in mind, I urge the Committee to **SUPPORT** this proposed bill.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:42:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorian K Cabanting	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB 305

RELATING TO LAND RESTORATION

I strongly support the passage of HB 305. This legislation is crucial for the future of our state and the well-being of our communities.

HB 305 establishes the Aloha Aina Land Trust, a vital entity to ensure the responsible and beneficial use of lands returned to the State after the expiration of military leases. This Trust will play a critical role in:

- **Rehabilitating Degraded Lands**
- **Preserving Cultural and Historical Resources**
- **Promoting Sustainable Land Use**
 - **Agricultural Lands**
 - **Conservation and Preservation**

The establishment of the Aloha Aina Land Trust demonstrates a commitment to responsible land stewardship and a vision for a sustainable future for Hawai‘i.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 3:52:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha ‘Āina ‘Oia‘i‘o. Ua mau ke ea o ka ‘āina i ka pono. ‘Āina back. Wai back.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:06:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Safranski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support and I look forward to seeing landback in action.. it's past time.. Mahalo for listening to this haole living in Hawai'i Nei

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:42:04 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaylene Sheldon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair and Committee:

My name is Kaylene Kauwila Sheldon and I am in support for House Bill 305 relating to land restoration. The U.S military has a track record for desecrating land and has not done a great job in treating our 'āina or wai has important and vital resources that sustain human life. The military has displaced many Hawaiians/Nā Kanaka Maoli Hawai'i, an example of that is what was done at Makua Valley when the military evicted people from their homes and used heiaus and the church there as a target practice. The military left many ordinaces in Waikane to Kahuku. We are still trying to find ordinances on the island of Kaho'olawe which was damaged by the military. Pohakuloa a wahi pana is bombed or used as target practice every day. As of now I do not feel protected U.S military. All lands should be returned to the Native people of Hawai'i. The military can help clean up the ordinaces and dangeous chemical spills in good faith. I support the aloha 'āina land and the reservation of uses such as ecological rehabilitation, restoration and remediation that is mentioned in the bill.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kaylene Kauwila Sheldon, Ka'a'awa, Hawai'i

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:07:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaori-Lei Hanohano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

‘O Kaori-Lei Ka‘imipono Hanohano ko‘u inoa. No Maui mai ‘au aka no na‘e noho ‘au ma Ka‘a‘awa, O‘ahu.

My name is Ka‘imipono Hanohano. I‘m from the island of Maui and currently live in Ka‘a‘awa O‘ahu. I submit this testimony for my ‘ohana and we oppose the renewal of any military leases. We encourage the return of all military land to the kuleana land holders. This process (rehabilitation, restoration, and remediation) will ensure the health and wellbeing of the Native Hawaiian people. Helping us to reclaim who we are as we steward the lands of our ancestors will help us be sustainable like our kupuna.

Mahalo to my Kupuna who signed the kū‘ē petitions, a hiki I Ke aloha ‘aina hope loa!

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:39:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

I support HB305, "Landback". The military has been abusing our 'āina for far too long (and the Hawai'i admin seems to be ok with that??). When will we solve our houseless issue, affordable housing issue, Hawaiian homes? It starts with being able to get our 'āina back, and someone having the confidence in the government to do so. Please support HB 305. Mahalo

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:26:37 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB305

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:34:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Kehau Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: House Committee on Water & Land

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB305 – Relating to Land Restoration

Aloha. My name is J. Kēhau Lucas and I am a resident of ka pae ‘āina o Hawai‘i. I am writing to express my strong **support for HB305**, which aims to establish the Aloha ‘Āina Land Trust.

Reasons for Support:

1. **Environmental Rehabilitation:** The establishment of the Aloha ‘Āina Land Trust will ensure that lands previously utilized by the military are properly rehabilitated, promoting ecological restoration and biodiversity.
2. **Cultural Preservation:** By managing these lands, the Trust can safeguard areas of cultural significance, ensuring that native Hawaiian practices and sites are respected and maintained.
3. **Community Engagement:** The Trust provides an opportunity for local communities to be directly involved in the stewardship of these lands, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, HB305 represents a significant step toward **responsible land management** and the preservation of Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources. I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Aloha ‘Āina ‘Oia‘i‘o,

J. Kēhau Lucas

808-482-0824

jessklucas@gmail.com

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:54:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kalena Charlene Holani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I AM IN 100% SUPPORT OF THIS BILL AND ASK YOU ALL SERIOUSLY TAKE A
LOOK AT THE BENEFITS VS RISKS ALLOWING SUCH STEWARDS OF THESE LANDS
CONTINUE ON.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 11:18:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hailey Schurz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the motion to repatriate Hawaiian lands currently occupied by military entities when their leases expire because not a single "good" thing they've done outweighs all the harm that has been done both to the 'āina and her people. Without the military and their families taking up so much space both on and off base, this will allow more Hawaiians the chance to remain on their homelands and not be forced to move away because of housing shortages directly caused by the military. This is a necessary step in decolonization that will benefit the people in many more ways than one. As the land heals, so too shall we.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 11:50:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Committee members

I strongly support HB305 and the creation of the Aloha Aina Land Trust to rehabilitate and manage lands transferred by the United States military to the State after the leases for those lands expire. **None** of these leases should be extended. The military has proven to be a detriment to the safety and well-being of our communities. Their criminal, reckless contamination of the water and land must stop.

Hawaii's lands and water must be stewarded and maintained for present and future generations. We must now undertake ecological restoration and remediation projects, as is outlined in this measure, that focus on reforesting native species, restoring wetlands, and improving watersheds and enabling the sustainability of the land. It is our kuleana to future generations.

Please pass this critical legislation. Our children and the ones that are yet to be born are counting on you.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:43:50 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimmer Horsen (Bighorse)	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I am in support of this bill because the Native Hawaiian youth suicide epidemic, land, sea and air gave birth to the Hawaiian Kingdom royal subjects only for it to be belligerently occupied and overthrown illegally by United States businessmen in 1893. Man made wars, landfills, condominiums, wave pools, telescopes, UXOs, artillery ranges, golf courses, and contaminated fuel tanks now pollute the water aquifers, resources such as the air and ocean. The Kanaka Maoli now suffer from houselessness, substance abuse, youth suicide, domestic violence, poverty, incarceration, forced assimilation, sex trafficking, genocide, ethnocide, missing murdered wahine and ecocide. Endemic species to Hawaii now suffer and face absolute extinction. Hawaiian culture simply feeds the American exploitation and capitalism robbing it of its original meaning and purpose. Hula dancers are paid minimum wage at cheap tourist luaus and exploited for entertainment purposes only. Wahine are lusted upon as objects and exotic dancers rather than the rich royal prestigious tradition of hula such as Merrie Monarch, to feed the greedy eyes and appetite of foreign male tourists.

This disruption and destruction will end Oahu and Hawaii pae aina like Kahoolawe when the water tables are destroyed and contaminated by fuel, oil and military ordnance.

Honor the Hawaiian Kingdom by deoccupying and restoring the islands back to the first inhabitants of this land since time immemorial. This is the only chance Hawaii has of surviving ultimate destruction and desecration.

He Hawaii au. Na Honu.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:07:02 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Rojas	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

It is about time - NOW - for ALL MILITARY LAND BACK, and ALL LAND BACK.

I support this bill HB 305.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:18:09 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support restoring lands used by the military. .

Bianca Isaki

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:56:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlie Voss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support House Bill 305, which seeks to return military lands to the Hawaiian people. This bill is a crucial step in acknowledging the deep history of displacement and injustice experienced by Native Hawaiians due to the military occupation of lands that were once central to their culture, community, and identity.

For over a century, large portions of Hawai'i's land have been taken under the guise of national security and military necessity, often with little regard for the Native Hawaiian communities that had lived on and cared for these lands for generations. The long-term military presence on these lands has led to environmental degradation, the loss of cultural sites, and a deep sense of disconnection from ancestral lands for many Kanaka Maoli.

Returning these lands is not only a matter of rectifying historical wrongs but also of fostering healing, cultural restoration, and economic opportunity outside of colonial industries for Native Hawaiians. Many of these lands hold profound spiritual and historical significance, and their return would provide Native Hawaiians with a reclamation of their heritage and reconnect with the land in ways that have been denied and commercialized for far too long.

This bill represents a significant step toward fulfilling the promises of justice and self-determination for the Native Hawaiian people. It is a reflection of respect for Native Hawaiian sovereignty and the right to govern, manage, and protect lands that are integral to their identity and well-being.

I urge all members of the legislature to support House Bill 305 as a means of honoring the past, addressing current inequities, and building a future that respects and uplifts Native Hawaiian communities.

Mahalo, Charlie Voss

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:09:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB305 to create an Aloha 'Āina Trust to receive Military Lands after their lease expires. This is a necessary reparation to return this land to its rightful kuleana descendants and end the military's mismanagement of so much land in Hawai'i.

As representatives of THE PEOPLE, you have a kuleana to prioritize the needs of the public. We see so much destruction and irreparable damage done to our communities because of the military's poor stewardship of this land. Look at Red Hill, Kaho'olawe, and all of the unexploded ordinances scattered around the islands. I just hiked in what is now a nature preserve in Keauhou and even this area that is a recognized archaeological site marked for preservation has been damaged by the military's presence. Roads were bulldozed straight through and damaging pieces of our history. We can't get that back, but we CAN do better and prevent more damage.

It is time to prepare for a better future use for these lands. The only way to do that is to have a plan for who will manage it when these leases expire.

I strongly support this proposal and the possibility of a future where Hawaiian lands are back in Hawaiian hands.

Mahalo,

Stacey Alapai, Makawao, Maui

Testimony in Support of HB305

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sage Huston, and I am a concerned Native Hawaiian and Hawaii resident. I am testifying in strong support of HB305, which seeks to create the Aloha Aina Land Trust. Establishing this trust to manage and rehabilitate lands would bring significant benefits to Hawaii residents and Native Hawaiians for several reasons:

- 1. Residential Development:** The rehabilitated lands could be used to build affordable housing or Hawaiian Homes, increasing the housing supply in a state that desperately needs it. Hawaii's housing crisis stems from a severe imbalance of supply and demand. By making more land available for housing, HB305 could help ease this imbalance and potentially lower housing costs over time. This would also help retain the local population, especially Native Hawaiians, allowing them to live and thrive here without being "priced out of paradise" and forced to relocate due to the high cost of living.
- 2. Cultural Restoration:** Native Hawaiians could regain greater access to and control over 'āina that once rightfully belonged to them. These lands could serve vital purposes such as agricultural practices, cultural restoration, and perpetuating traditional Hawaiian ways of life.
- 3. Land Stewardship:** By focusing on the rehabilitation and proper management of these lands, HB305 aligns with the Hawaiian value of aloha 'āina. This would protect our fragile ecosystems and natural resources, making them healthier for the community. It would also restore and strengthen the connection between the people and the land, ensuring the 'āina can continue to sustain life for our keiki and future generations.
- 4. Public Access and Recreation:** The rehabilitation of these lands could open them up for more public access, including recreational opportunities, which are essential for community well-being.

I strongly believe that establishing HB305 has the potential to create transformative opportunities for our community. By focusing on land rehabilitation, sustainable management, and prioritizing the needs of local residents and Native Hawaiians, this bill represents a vital step toward addressing issues of land use, affordable housing, and environmental preservation. I respectfully urge you to support HB305 as an investment in Hawaii's future- one that ensures the wellbeing of our 'āina and its people for generations to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Sage Huston

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:35:58 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We need to prepare for these lands to come back into our care after they've been extracted from for far too long. Please take this work into serious consideration especially as we are in the Year of the Forest and we're in deep conversations about the impacts of climate change and the need to build up our islands food systems to make it more resilient.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:42:15 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isis Usborne	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this important bill.

Mahalo,

- Isis

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:00:26 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha e,

My name is Joy Lehuanani Enomoto, I am writing to support HB 305 to create an Aloha Aina Land Trust to rehabilitate and manage lands transferred by the United States military to the State after the leases for those lands expire. For far too long the US military has degraded and devastated our lands and waters. All of the Army leases and all other expiring leases must be and should be restored for future of the people of Hawai'i. We have already seen what happens when the military moves without regulation or intervention. Please appropriate the necessary funds for this bill.

Mahalo,

Joy Enomoto

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:10:29 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Espiritu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 305 and the return, rehabilitation, restoration and the remediation of lands currently held by the US military.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:20:55 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ethan Onipaa Porter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a non-Kanaka Maoli, I highly support the return of the land leased by the United States Military back into Kanaka Maoli control.

Too much of our precious land is being used for the advancement of war and the influx of troops drives up the cost of living for all of us, but disproportionately Kanaka Maoli who are now being forced from their homeland.

It is important to define this process now, before negotiations move further with the new federal administration.

I want a future where my children can live in this land, practicing the culture that made our islands special. Please support HB305.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:24:37 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Owens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Water & Land Committee,

My name is Madison Owens, and I am testifying in **strong support, with amendments, of House Bill 305.**

The time has come for us to reckon with the injustices of the past and address the ongoing harm that has long been inflicted on these lands. The continued presence, extraction, and environmental devastation caused by the United States Military on stolen Hawaiian Kingdom lands represent a profound and enduring injustice. These lands—taken without the consent or compensation of Hawai‘i’s Indigenous people, as acknowledged in U.S. Public Law 103-150—belong to the Kānaka Maoli.

We must act now. The military leases, which cover approximately 30,000 acres of land across O‘ahu, Kaua‘i, Maui, and Hawai‘i, are set to expire in 2029. Rather than waiting for that deadline, we must take decisive steps to restore these lands to their rightful stewards and ensure their rehabilitation and protection for generations to come. HB305 provides a pathway to achieve this by establishing the Aloha ‘Āina Land Trust.

The threat posed by the U.S. Military to the Hawaiian Islands cannot be overstated. Under the guise of “national security,” the military has brought war to these shores, poisoned our water, desecrated sacred land, and endangered communities. This legacy of harm must end. We must protect Hawai‘i’s waters, lands, and people—not only for today but for future generations.

HB305 is a vital step forward, but it must include key amendments to ensure true accountability and community empowerment. The trustees of the Aloha ‘Āina Land Trust should not be dominated by appointees of the Governor. A majority of voting members should be selected by independent organizations that represent the Hawai‘i community.

In 2024, during the Army’s public hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding military land retention, hundreds of community members provided powerful testimonies opposing the continued misuse and abuse of these lands by the military. Over 15,000 signatures on various petitions further demonstrate Hawai‘i’s collective demand for change: end military leases and restore stolen lands.

The message is clear: Enough is enough. Do what is pono—not just for today but for future generations.

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Water & Land Committee, I respectfully and strongly urge this committee to pass HB305 with the proposed amendments.

Mahalo for your time, commitment, and consideration.

With gratitude,
Madison Owens

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:08:39 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaua Kama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB305

Kauailinoe Kama

January 27th 2025

My name is Kauailinoe Kama, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB305, which would create an Aloha 'Āina Trust to recieve Military lands after expiration of the lease in 2029..

I support the bill because the military has only brought desecration to our lands. The lands are home to many endangered and threatend organisms that the military has carelessly bombed, trampled, and raided. This bill will be a tool for Kanaka Maoli and the residents of Hawaii to recieve these lands so that it can be healed and managed for the betterment of our people. Though food security, environmental conservation, and 'āina based education.

As someone who is Kanaka Maoli or Native Hawaiian, a steward of this land, I believe HB305 is a necessary and thoughtful step toward addressing the lands that are being leased are stolen Hawaiian Kingdom lands and the military are not good care takers. By passing this legislation, the State of Hawaii will have a mechanism to recieve these lands for better land management.

I urge the committee to advance HB305 and ensure it becomes law. Thank you for your consideration of this important measure and for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Kaualilinoe Kama

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:15:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:50:44 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I am testifying as an advocate for the protection and restoration of ‘āina, and as an aloha ‘āina of the Hawaiian Kingdom. I write in **support with amendments of HB305.**

This bill proposes an important and necessary step in ensuring that lands leased to the U.S. military are returned to the rightful kuleana landowners or to an aloha ‘āina land trust for purposes that align with ecological rehabilitation, regenerative agriculture, education, and other community-based uses. **I strongly support the intention of HB305 to restore ‘āina to the hands of Kānaka ‘Ōiwi and to advance its healing and regeneration.**

However, I respectfully recommend **amendments to ensure that the implementation of this measure fully reflects the rights and interests of Kānaka ‘Ōiwi:**

- 1. Consultation with Experts:** It is critical that entities such as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and other knowledgeable experts are consulted in the transfer process. These consultations will help ensure that the decision-making process reflects the voices and priorities of Kānaka ‘Ōiwi and avoids unintended consequences, such as placing undue burdens on kuleana landowners.
- 2. Burden of Remediation:** While the bill proposes returning lands to kuleana landowners, it must acknowledge the significant financial and logistical challenges involved in the remediation of lands that have been heavily impacted by military activities. If lands are to be transferred to kuleana landowners or community trusts, proper resources, funding, and support must accompany such transfers to ensure that remediation responsibilities are not unjustly placed on those receiving the lands.
- 3. Protecting Landowner Rights:** The language of the bill should not dictate or overly restrict how kuleana landowners may use their lands after transfer. While encouraging ecological and community-based uses is valuable, it is important to preserve the autonomy and agency of landowners to steward their lands according to their needs and cultural practices.

HB305 represents a step toward justice for the ‘āina and for the Kānaka ‘Ōiwi whose land has been stewarded, protected, and occupied for generations. By incorporating these amendments,

this measure can more fully reflect the values of aloha ‘āina and kuleana, while empowering our communities to care for and thrive on these lands.

I urge the committee to pass HB305 with these amendments to ensure it best serves the interests of Kānaka ‘Ōiwi and the ‘āina we all love.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:53:42 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kris Bordessa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the creation and funding of the Aloha Aina Land Trust. It's time to rehabilitate and manage lands transferred by the United States military to the State.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:57:30 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mara Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pass HB 305. Since Red hill continues to cause issues to our drinking water passing this bill is necessary.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:01:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:33:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mo'i Kawaakoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of HB305. The military has destroyed and used the 'Āina for far too long and it is time to decommission and stop destroying all of these places. The list is too long to go over and it's clear to see the damage done. A whole island uninhabitable due to the destruction of the U.S military. Make the right choice and start working for the people. Repatriation in the form of decommissioning and allowing the 'Āina to heal.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:42:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makanoe Hufana	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

HB 305 creates an Aloha ‘Āina trust to receive military lands back after the expiration of leases in 2029. HB305 also provides a mechanism to receive these lands, clean, and returned to the rightful owners. The army leases alone total 30,000 acres of Hawaiian lands that are military occupied on O‘ahu and Hawai‘I Island, being used for "training exercises" which are aet to expire between 2028-2030.

Let's not forget another point that is very important. These lands and everything within the land, the streams, all the way to the dirt and bones in the ground are **STOLEN KINGDOM LAND**. That was obtained without consent or compensation to me the people, Kānaka Maoli.

the U.S. military is a poor steward of lands and water. Example is one of the biggest examples of this is Red Hill.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:06:54 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Acasio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:10:51 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemary Bearden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a lifelong resident of Hawai‘i, I strongly support HB305. This bill will help ensure that Hawaiian land is returned to its rightful owners, as it should be. The U.S. military has proven itself a very poor steward of the land and water of Hawai‘i, and thus I do not think they should be allowed to renew these leases. This land needs to be returned to the stewardship of Kānaka Maoli so that it can be properly cared for and shown the respect it deserves, and so that Kānaka Maoli can choose what it is used for rather than the U.S. Military. Thus, I support HB305.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:52:25 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I, Yvonne Alvarado is in Support of Bill HB305

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:06:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert N Mansfield, Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. We all are kamaaina, just by living here. Allow the kamaaina who toil daily to merely make ends meet have a say on how we will steward this aina. Allow those who value island self sustaining measures. Economy alone cannot be the instrument of measure when it comes to governance. Mahalo a nui loa!

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:07:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealakai Hammond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB305, which seeks to return, restore and rehabilitate lands leased by the military and establish a land trust to ensure their sustainable use for Hawai'i's people.

1. **Stolen Hawaiian Lands:** These lands were unlawfully annexed following the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani and remain central to Native Hawaiian claims of sovereignty and stewardship. Military occupation perpetuates historical injustices.
2. **Environmental Harm:** The military has repeatedly failed as a steward of these lands, causing toxic contamination, habitat destruction, and threats to endangered species unique to Hawai'i.
3. **Existing Plans for Return:** The U.S. Army has developed scenarios for returning portions of these lands, but Hawai'i currently lacks a robust mechanism to receive, rehabilitate, and manage them effectively.

This bill proposes the creation of a land trust to:

- **Restore Ecosystems:** Rehabilitate native habitats and protect endangered species.
- **Promote Food Sovereignty:** Use regenerative agriculture to support local food production.
- **Uphold Hawaiian Culture:** Provide space for cultural practices and education rooted in traditional knowledge.
- **Benefit the Community:** Offer opportunities for education, employment, and connection to 'āina.

We must prepare now to restore and steward these lands for future generations. Passing this bill affirms a commitment to justice, environmental health, and the well-being of Hawai'i's people.

I urge you to support this bill. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Thank you ,

Kealakai Hammond

Honolulu, HI

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:20:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB305 to create an Aloha Aina Trust to receive Military Lands after their lease expires. The land needs to be returned to its rightful Kuleana descendants and end the military's mismanagement of so many land in Hawaii.

I fully support this proposal HB305

Mahalo nui

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:33:03 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riley Bond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Riley Bond, and I strongly support HB 305, which establishes the Aloha ‘Āina Land Trust.

The U.S. military’s use of lands in Hawai‘i has caused significant and lasting harm to the environment and local communities. HB 305 is a necessary step to begin addressing this harm by returning these lands to Native Hawaiians and the community. Restoring these lands for ecological rehabilitation, regenerative agriculture, and cultural education is the least that can be done to right these wrongs and support a more just and sustainable future.

I urge the committee to pass HB 305 and take meaningful action toward healing the land and the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Riley Bond
Lahaina, Maui

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:39:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in full support of HB 305, which will transfer lands vacated by military occupation to the aloha ‘āina land trust or the owner of inheritable interest in kuleana land. These lands have been desecrated by both military and the poor management of the fake state for decades. ‘Āina Back.

Mahalo for doing what is right,

Avalon Paradea

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:03:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cardenas Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas (Cards) Pintor

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:17:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of hb305.

The US government and its military have not been good stewards of our ‘aina. As evident in the Red Hill water issue and the oil spill on Haleakalā. Both issues of which have not been completely mitigated.

If the US wants to extend their lease then they should be paying full market value of the ‘aina. There should not be any \$1.00 a year lease permitted. These are prime lands which belong to the indigenous peoples of this ‘aina. The illegal occupation of our Kingdom has indentured our people and stripped them of their rights as Kanaka Maoli. Our housing stock is seriously depleted due to the military personnel being allowed to purchase housing with their BAH, not required to stay in on base housing or providing any mitigation to the consumption of what little housing we have ko pae ‘aina.

i am in support of hb305.

carol lee kamekona

kahului, maui

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:46:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB305.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:01:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Gaylord	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I fully support the creation of an Aloha Aina Land Trust to recieve military lands when their lease expires in 2029. Transfer of lands back into the hands of indigenous people cannot happen soon enough. Research shows that indigenous people are the most effective land and water protectors of their native lands. Conversely, the military has an atrocious record of harm to land and people. I along with those who drafted this bill call for land rehabilitation, restoration and remediation.

Mahalo~

Carol Gaylord

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:31:52 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahea Mokuau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB 305 – Land Back for Native Hawaiians

Aloha, Chair and members of the committee,

My name is KAHEALANI Mokuau, and I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 305. As a Native Hawaiian, community member, I see this bill as a vital step toward addressing the historical injustices that Native Hawaiians have faced and restoring our connection to the land.

For more than a century, Native Hawaiians have suffered from the unlawful loss of our lands, starting with the illegal annexation of Hawaii by the United States in 1898. The forced disbandment of our kingdom and the subsequent loss of our lands have inflicted lasting damage on our communities, undermining both our cultural heritage and economic wellbeing. This bill offers a chance to make significant progress toward justice and healing.

HB 305 symbolizes the potential for returning lands to Native Hawaiians—lands that were taken unlawfully and have long been denied to us. This legislation paves the way for land restoration, enabling Native Hawaiians to reconnect with our ancestral traditions, culture, and practices that have been lost or diminished over generations.

The return of land goes beyond mere ownership; it is about cultural revitalization and economic sustainability. Land is intricately linked to our identity as Native Hawaiians. It serves as the foundation for our culture, practices, and way of life. By restoring lands to their rightful heirs, we can revive traditional agricultural practices, enhance access to resources, and begin to heal the deep wounds inflicted by historical injustices. The return of land will empower Native Hawaiians to build stronger, more resilient communities, benefiting not just our people but all of Hawaii.

As a Native Hawaiian, I have seen and experienced firsthand the effects of land loss on our community. We have faced challenges in maintaining and passing down our cultural traditions because we no longer have access to the lands that are essential to our identity.

The loss of land has also contributed to systemic economic challenges that continue to affect Native Hawaiians today. This bill represents an opportunity to begin the long overdue process of healing and reclaiming what was rightfully ours.

I strongly urge the committee to support HB 305. The return of land to Native Hawaiians is a vital step toward justice, cultural preservation, and economic sustainability. This bill is not just an investment in the future of Native Hawaiians, but in the future of Hawaii as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:36:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Support

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:42:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Peterson	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am in support with mana'o on amendments and will be testifying online.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:49:38 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this measure

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:19:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ford potter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as a kauai resident since birth

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:29:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Witeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure as a means to recover lands the military has long leased and too often polluted or desecrated! The return of these lands would greatly benefit the Kanaka Maoli and all of Hawaii's people. Please enact this vital measure for the good of the people, esp, our keiki & grandkids! Mahalo!

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:34:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
bob gregory	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Restore the land - it was once pristine and natural, but years of life fire training and detonation of military ordnance has created a degraded, dangerous, toxic and poisonous place. Please clean up after this mess to return the land to what it once was, or as near as possible - so that humans can walk or traverse this land, so that wildlife can flourish, so that the poisons and toxins are removed, so that people and life itself are not endangered with PFAS, radiation, heavy metals, explosives, and other chemicals and substances. Mahalo

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:38:59 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fred hofer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yes,    take back the lands abused by the military, clean it up & return to rightful owner

No new leases

Return all the lands abused by the US military

Return to rightful owners

Mahalo

Fred

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:46:31 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support HB305

Aloha,

I support House Bill 305 to transfer lands once leased by the U.S. military towards the rightful Kuleana Land owners of those spaces. I am also in support of creating an Aloha ‘Aina Land Trust for the purpose of ecological rehabilitation, education, and sustainable regenerative agriculture to support Hawai‘i food systems.

The military has desecrated and disconnected Kanaka Maoli from these lands. This severed connection has done irreparable harm to these ‘aina themselves and to all people of Hawai‘i but especially na Kanaka oiwi. Give them back. The military does nothing for Hawai‘i that makes giving up this much land to them worth it for anyone. They make no effort to clean up these spaces either. From contaminating our most precious resources, leaving immeasurable amounts of waste from their bombing and warfare practices, to harming the safety and life of our wildlife for the sake of their technological advancement, there is no shortage of hewa committed by the military directly to Hawai‘i, its land, and its people. Even their own people.

To allocate any more resources to these fools would be a grave mistake. We live on an island. Every parcel, square inch of land and natural resource here is necessary to our survival as a people. With the limited resources we already have and the isolation of our islands we cannot play around. We don't have any space, time, or resources to give to the military.

The land should go to competent people who know how to manage resources well. The land and all its natural resources should be under the control of people who are going to provide our islands with a productive healthy ecosystem. Use these spaces to grow food, to grow plants that will benefit our health and growth. To rejuvenate the soil and the water. To rejuvenate the wildlife. That is what we really need as a people. Especially in this time of economic crisis and stress over our basic means of survival. Allow the people who are from these ahupua'a to reconnect with their land, ancestors, their culture, and themselves. Historically Kanaka Maoli have been able to cultivate the land in a way that created abundance for all people. Allow that to happen again and I promise it will be worth it.

**Mahalo,
Ka'imi**

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:54:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support.

Cindy Freitas

makainanqi@gmail.com

SUPPORT FOR Bill HB305

Companion SB1193

He Mele komo a he mele aloha no na kupuna o ke au i hala Aloha mai kakou.

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm a Native Hawaiian descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the creation of the Aloha Aina Land Trust. This initiative represents a crucial step in ensuring the responsible stewardship of lands transferred by the United States military to the State of Hawai'i following the expiration of their leases.

Hawai'i's lands are more than just physical spaces—they are the foundation of our culture, identity, and future. Unfortunately, lands used for military purposes often require rehabilitation due to contamination, degradation, or other impacts. Establishing the Aloha Aina Land Trust provides a proactive, community-centered solution to restore these lands to health and purpose.

This trust can serve as a model of mālama 'āina, a guiding principle in Hawaiian culture that emphasizes the responsibility to care for and live in harmony with the land. By incorporating community voices, traditional practices, and sustainable land management, the Aloha Aina Land Trust can ensure these lands are restored for cultural, environmental, and economic benefit.

Furthermore, appropriating funds to support the creation and operation of the Trust is an essential investment. It ensures that resources are available for thorough assessments, decontamination efforts, and the establishment of programs to promote education and community engagement in land stewardship.

I urge the committee to approve this measure and demonstrate a commitment to the preservation of Hawai'i's natural and cultural heritage. This is a pivotal opportunity to heal the land, honor its history, and build a sustainable future for generations to come.

Mahalo nui loa for your leadership and consideration of this important matter.

Respectfully,

_____/s/_____

Cindy Freitas

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:25:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle K Kajihiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem and members of the Water and Land committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. This bill will create a vehicle for the state to receive and restore lands currently leased by the military for the absurd fee of \$1 for 65 years. These are public trust lands, that is, crown and government lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom that were wrongfully taken by the United States. The lands are not the property of the United States military nor are they property of the State. The State is the trustee whose fiduciary duty it is to steward these lands in line with constitutional duties of care for the environment and for the benefit of the designated beneficiaries, which includes Native Hawaiians, the group most harmed by the effects of the U.S. military-backed overthrow of the Kingdom. The model of an Aloha 'Āina Land Trust follows the precedent of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, which sets holds the land until a Hawaiian governing entity can receive the lands in the future.

I would urge that the bill be amended to allow for the land trust to delegate some of its authority to local oversight bodies who have the desire and capacity to govern specific sites, such as Mākua valley, where the community has long been engaged in the process of restoring cultural access and use of the valley. This would fulfill the important need for community participation and leadership while not abdicating the State's fiduciary duties.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kyle Kajihiro

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:36:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Jennifer Lum, and I am a retired Air Force Master Sergeant who has called Hawaii home for over 30 years. I've served this country honorably, and now I stand before you to advocate for a cause that is deeply important to the future of our islands and the well-being of the Kanaka Maoli people: HB 305.

The expiration of state leases for over 30,000 acres of military lands between 2028 and 2030 presents a unique and critical opportunity for our state. HB 305 offers a vital mechanism to reclaim these lands, undertake necessary environmental remediation, and, most importantly, facilitate their return to the rightful owners – the Kanaka Maoli.

These are not just any lands; these are stolen Hawaiian Kingdom lands, taken without the consent or just compensation to the Kanaka Maoli people. For too long, this historical injustice has persisted. HB 305 is a chance to begin to rectify this wrong.

My 30 years in Hawaii have given me a firsthand perspective on the stewardship of our ‘aina. Frankly, the U.S. Military’s record as stewards of our lands and water is deeply troubling. The Red Hill water contamination crisis is a stark and painful example of the devastating consequences of their mismanagement. We cannot afford to perpetuate this pattern of environmental disregard. The health and safety of our communities, and the sanctity of our natural resources, are far too precious to be entrusted to those who have demonstrated such a profound lack of respect.

Furthermore, the U.S. Army's own scenarios presented last year suggested retaining only a *portion* of the total leased lands. This acknowledgment underscores the fact that not all of these lands are essential for military operations. It reinforces the urgency and the feasibility of returning these lands to their rightful owners.

HB 305 is not simply about land; it's about justice. It’s about recognizing the historical claims of the Kanaka Maoli and taking concrete steps toward reconciliation. It's about ensuring the responsible stewardship of our ‘aina for generations to come. It's about healing the wounds of the past and building a more equitable future for all of Hawaii.

I urge you to support HB 305. Let us seize this opportunity to right a historical wrong, protect our precious resources, and honor the true stewards of these islands. Mahalo.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:51:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leo Nahe Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony to support the House Bill 305. State leases for the Military lands across Hawai'i Nei are set to expire between 2028 and 2030. Make this the end of the military presence, as the military has proven time and time again that they are not good stewards of our 'āina. Not in Red Hill, not at Pohakuloa, not Makua Valley or Kahuku. Our 'āina deserves to breath once again and that will only happen if removed from the hands of the US Military and given back to the lāhui of Hawai'i.

Na,

Leo Nahe

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:04:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tatsuki Kohatsu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Tatsuki Kohatsu. I support HB 305 that provides a mechanism to receive the lands that the U.S. military currently occupies upon the end of the state leases. The U.S. military is a poor steward of the lands and waters. I believe that these lands should be returned and taken care of by the Kanaka Maoli people and those who deeply care for the lands. Thank you so much for your time.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:07:34 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I firmly support this measure.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:16:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni DeFranco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to establish the Aloha ‘Āina Land Trust, which will rehabilitate and manage lands returned to the State by the United States military after lease expirations. This initiative is crucial to ensuring that these lands are restored, cared for, and utilized in ways that align with the values and priorities of our community.

By creating a dedicated entity to oversee the transition and stewardship of these lands, we can ensure their rehabilitation for sustainable uses, cultural preservation, and environmental restoration. The Aloha ‘Āina Land Trust represents a significant opportunity to mālama ‘āina and address the long-term impacts of military use on our land.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:36:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sebastian Church	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

To whom it may concern, thank you for considering this testimony. I am testifying in support of HB305 to create an Aloha ‘Āina Land Trust to restore Hawaiian sovereignty over kuleana lands perviously held by branches of the US military. This bill would be a tangible step in the process of reparations for the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy and subsequent illegal annexation of the Pae ‘Āina. Putting Hawaiian lands back in Hawaiian hands is essential for multigenerational ecological and sociocultural restitution.

Thank you for your consideration and public service,

Sebastian Church

Resident, Honolulu County, O‘ahu

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:43:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leila Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Hawaiian woman from the islands of Hawai‘i and Maui, currently residing on the Island of Maui, I strongly support HB 305 to appropriate funds and create the Aloha Aina Land Trust to rehabilitate and manage lands transferred by the United States military to the State after the leases for those lands expires. State leases for over 30,000 acres of "military lands" are set to expire between 2028 and 2030. These lands include Pōhakuloa training area, Maui Space Surveillance Site and Remote Experimental Sites, Mākua Military Reservation, Kahuku Training Area, Kawailoa-Poamoho Training Areas, Mākaha Ridge, Pacific Missile Range Facility, Miloli‘i Ridge, Kamokala Ridge, and Koke‘e Air Force Station. These lands and many others were originally stolen from the Kingdom of Hawai‘i without consent or compensation to Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian people) before being leased to U.S. Military who have consistently proven their inability to steward and manage them for current and future generations as well as protecting them from the immense degradation and destruction of the irreplaceable biological and cultural resources they hold (with nearly all resources holding dual value within Hawaiian culture). Clean water, which is a basic human right and an irreplaceable resource, has been poisoned by the U.S. Military, and thus the U.S. Military poisoned at least tens of thousands of people and will continue to poison many generations to come unless something is done. Even the U.S. Military has suggested retaining only a portion of these lands for future leases, undoubtedly due immense public outrage and pressure regarding their egregious and negligent mismanagement of these lands. They have proven their inability to manage and prevent the degradation and destruction of the resources of Hawai‘i as well as their inability and unwillingness to clean up their messes and protect the people who live in these islands. HB 305 will provide the opportunity and support to clean, restore, and care for these precious places! Returning them to the people of Hawai‘i to be cared for, ultimately benefiting EVERYONE who lives in or simply visits Hawai‘i as these areas are restored and protected in perpetuity. Again, I strongly support HB 305.

Mahalo for your time.

- Leila Morrison

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:12:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

It's about time that the Hawaiian Land starts going back to the Hawaiians. Enough of the land has been destroyed by the military bombing. The military should actually pay for the land restoration.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:22:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronnie N Inagaki	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Written Testimony with Comments Only on HB305

To: Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Chair, Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee

From: Ronnie Inagaki

Date: January 27, 2025

Subject: Testimony with Comments Only** on HB305 – Aloha Aina Land Trust

Aloha Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ronnie Inagaki, and I am [a resident of Waimānalo/ a Native Hawaiian. I am writing to provide **comments only** on HB305, which proposes the establishment of the Aloha Aina Land Trust to restore, rehabilitate, and sustainably manage lands leased by the U.S. military after their leases expire.

While I strongly support the intent of this bill, as it reflects Hawaiian cultural values and addresses historical injustices, I believe there are several key areas where the bill could be strengthened to ensure its success and alignment with its goals.

****1. Environmental Remediation and U.S. Military Responsibility****

The bill does not explicitly require the U.S. military to clean or remediate lands prior to their transfer to the State or the Aloha Aina Land Trust. Many of these lands are likely to be

environmentally degraded or contaminated due to military activities, including the potential presence of unexploded ordnance, chemical residues, or other hazardous substances.

- **Concern**: Transferring contaminated lands to the State or the trust without requiring proper cleanup could place an unfair financial and environmental burden on the State of Hawaii and its residents.

- **Recommendation**: Amend the bill to include provisions that make the U.S. military fully responsible for environmental remediation before the lands are transferred. If remediation cannot be completed before transfer, the bill should specify a binding agreement for the military to continue cleanup efforts post-transfer.

2. Governance and Community Representation

The governance structure of the Aloha Aina Land Trust includes a seven-member board of trustees, with appointments made by the governor. While this structure provides for some expertise (e.g., representatives from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and specialists in ecological restoration), it does not guarantee direct representation from impacted Native Hawaiian communities or kuleana landowners.

- **Concern**: Without direct representation from Native Hawaiian community members or families with kuleana land ties, the trust's decision-making may not fully reflect the needs and priorities of these communities.

- **Recommendation**: Amend the bill to include guaranteed trustee positions for Native Hawaiian community leaders or kuleana landowners. Additionally, establish a mechanism for public consultation or the creation of a community advisory board to ensure that Native Hawaiian voices are central to land management decisions.

3. Native Hawaiian Sovereignty and Land Transfer

The bill acknowledges the eventual transfer of certain lands (those classified as government or crown lands prior to August 15, 1895) to a **sovereign Native Hawaiian entity** once such an entity is recognized by the U.S. and the State of Hawaii. While this is a positive step toward addressing historical injustices, the timeline and process for this transfer remain uncertain.

- **Concern**: The delay in recognizing a sovereign Native Hawaiian entity could result in these lands remaining in limbo for an extended period, diminishing opportunities for immediate Native Hawaiian self-determination.

- **Recommendation**: Include interim measures in the bill to ensure that Native Hawaiian organizations or governing bodies have active oversight of these lands while awaiting formal recognition of a sovereign entity. For example, establish partnerships with Native Hawaiian organizations to co-manage the lands in the meantime.

4. Funding and Financial Sustainability

The bill appropriates funds for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 to support the trust's activities, but the specific amounts are not provided. Additionally, the bill's prohibition of unrelated commercial uses of the lands—while understandable from a cultural and ecological perspective—may limit opportunities to generate revenue for restoration and management.

- **Concern**: Without adequate funding or revenue-generating mechanisms, the trust may struggle to achieve its goals of land restoration, cultural education, and agricultural development.

- **Recommendation**: Clarify the funding sources and amounts to ensure sufficient financial support for the trust's work. Consider allowing limited, culturally appropriate commercial activities—such as eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture ventures, or cultural workshops—that align with the trust's mission and generate revenue for its operations.

5. Metrics, Timelines, and Accountability

The bill does not establish specific metrics, timelines, or benchmarks for achieving its objectives. For example, it does not outline how soon lands will be rehabilitated after transfer, what specific ecological or agricultural goals will be pursued, or how the trust will report on its progress.

- **Concern**: Without clear metrics or timelines, it will be difficult to measure the trust's success or hold it accountable to its stated goals.

- **Recommendation**: Amend the bill to require the Aloha Aina Land Trust to develop and publish measurable goals, timelines, and annual progress reports. These reports should be made publicly available to ensure transparency and allow for community input.

****6. Alignment with Kamehameha III's Constitution****

HB305 aligns strongly with the principles of ****Kamehameha III's Constitution (1852)****, particularly its emphasis on the public trust doctrine, land stewardship, and the protection of Native Hawaiian rights. However, certain provisions could better reflect the constitutional principles of ****governance accountability**** and Native Hawaiian sovereignty.

- ****Concern****: The lack of a clear process for interim governance of lands awaiting transfer to a sovereign Native Hawaiian entity, as well as the absence of explicit metrics for accountability, may lead to delays or inefficiencies that undermine the bill's intent.

- ****Recommendation****: Strengthen the bill's alignment with these constitutional principles by ensuring greater Native Hawaiian representation in governance and establishing clear accountability measures for the trust's activities.

****Conclusion****

HB305 is a vital step toward restoring lands leased by the U.S. military and addressing the cultural, environmental, and social impacts of military land use in Hawaii. The bill reflects Hawaiian values of ****aloha 'āina**** and ****mālama 'āina****, while also aligning with the principles of Kamehameha III's Constitution. However, specific amendments are necessary to ensure the bill's success, including:

1. Requiring the U.S. military to complete environmental remediation of lands prior to transfer.
2. Strengthening governance by including direct representation from Native Hawaiian communities and kuleana landowners.
3. Establishing interim measures to address the delay in Native Hawaiian sovereignty recognition.
4. Clarifying funding and allowing limited, culturally appropriate revenue-generating activities.
5. Adding clear metrics and accountability measures to track the trust's progress.

I respectfully urge the committee to consider these comments and amend HB305 to better align with its goals of ecological restoration, cultural preservation, and Native Hawaiian empowerment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ronnie Inagaki

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:38:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Ramiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support house bill 305 - land back: return military lands. This is the right thing to do to live by our state motto, "Ua mau ke ea o ka 'aina I ka pono" we must protect our lands and bring back our native ecosystems. Our native forests are vital aspects of our islands watershed system. The military have not been good stewards of these lands and this is our opportunity to restore these lands and aloha 'aina to protect our way of life for future generations. This bill is a good first step in this process of recovery and rejuvenation of our islands fragile resources. Your support of bill 305 is imperative to keep Hawaii's resources protected for generations to come.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:39:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassidy Hollenbeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of HB 305.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:41:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello, My name is Rene Kehaulani Schofield and I live in Paho, Hawaii. I am writing to express my strong support for HB305, which presents a critical opportunity to address a historical injustice and initiate a process of healing for Kanaka Oihi (Native Hawaiians) and the environment.

As you know, the US military occupies a significant portion of Hawaiian lands under a deeply flawed and exploitative lease agreement made in the 1960s which allowed them to purchase nearly 30,000 acres of land on 65-year leases for a grand total of \$1. HB305 offers a pathway to reclaim these lands, offers some justice to the Lahui, help address the affordable housing crisis that has plagued Oihi for decades, and ensure the land stewardship can become more closely aligned with aloha 'aina, or Native Hawaiian land values and practices.

This bill is essential for several reasons:

- **Restorative Justice:** It begins to rectify the historical dispossession of Native Hawaiians from their ancestral lands, offering some modicum of healing and reconciliation.
- **Environmental Regeneration:** By prioritizing ecological restoration and sustainable land management practices, HB305 will help restore Hawaii's unique biodiversity, enhance its resilience to climate change, and protect delicate food, water, and other ecosystems.
- **Cultural Preservation:** The bill empowers Lahui to manage lands according to traditional knowledge and practices, ensuring the continuation of cultural heritage for future generations.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB305 and support this important step towards justice, healing, and a more sustainable future for Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Rene Kehaulani Schofield

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:44:24 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Gorman-Chang	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Susan Gorman-Chang Testimony for HB 305 **Support HB 305**

Aloha Committee Chair and Members,

Mahalo for taking my testimony. I strongly support HB 305. This bill is proactive in its approach, containing plans for how any land for which the military will *not* be granted a new lease for, should be handled.

It is social justice to return such previously leased land to the owner of an inheritable interest in Kuleana land, if applicable. We heard the testimony last July 2024 at the public hearings on the Environmental Impact Statement for possible new military leases, from individuals whose families had been taken off their land by the military, and promised they could get back on their land 6 months after WWII ended. Yet here we are today with that land still unjustly under the control of the military, with that ‘aina being desecrated and polluted.

For land where there is not an owner of an inheritable interest in Kuleana land, the land is stipulated in HB 305 to go into Aloha ‘Aina Trust to be used for the benefit of the Hawaiian people, and furthermore to be cleaned up, restored and remediated.

We can’t undo the past, but we are at a point in the present where we are able to stipulate fairly and justly how any military land that will not be securing a new lease will be returned to applicable families and to a trust for kanaka maoli, and HB 305 provides the structure under which this can be achieved.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:58:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
imani altemus-williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The US military has made itself abundantly clear for decades that it is not a suitable, reliable or trustworthy insitution. It is in no position to act as a caretaker of any land, when the US military infact destroys and poisons land, water, air and people for profit, domination and its imperialist agenda. Land back is long overdue. Reparations for harm done is needed now. Let kanaka maoli and the people of Hawai'i heal, and give yourself the opportunity to heal by doing what is right for the present and future generations.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:59:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Altemus	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I am here to testify as an individual and family therapist concerned with the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health of people. I am a published author with Penguin addressing how to heal and transform pain. The first thing one has to recognize is that they are in pain and be willing to honestly look at the root cause of the pain. Living in a culture that values the sacredness of life and focuses on taking care of all living beings, not destroying them, is where healing begins. In a culture that bombs and desecrates the very source of life, the earth and all of its inhabitants, this is an unhealthy toxic culture. Not even a cockroach destroys its environment.

As the US military extracts from Mother Earth to create bombs that kill everything they target, they are destroying the source of life that sustains all living beings today and for generations to come. There is a major disconnect to one's source of life and a lack of understanding that there is a way as human beings that we can find to cooperate with one another and have the mutual goal to be caretakers, not destroyers of life. The people who are doing the destruction are in pain, they are disconnected from who they are and why they are here as human beings. They perpetuate pain on everyone they come into contact with, as does an abuser in a home. The people whose land is stolen, culture attacked, language forbidden and often forced into subjugation using racism and all of the ism's that come with this way of life. suffer tremendous pain and hardship.

Living in Hawaii for almost 40 years it is clear that the Kanaka are in great pain as their culture of inclusivity, cooperation, caring for the aina and one another and sharing their beautiful culture and hearts with so many who are not from these islands, are suffering great loss, emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually. So many are houseless, hungry, struggling to make ends meet, and the list goes on and on. This was not the case for Kanaka before the illegal US occupation and militarization of these islands. The military has destroyed Kahoolawe, and contaminated and is destroying Pohakuloa, Makua and all the places they test their bombs. What is happening in these islands is a moral and international crime and the healing begins when people are allowed to reconnect with their aina and have their land back.

Enough harm has been done. Your land leases are up. The only right thing to do is clean up your mess, pay retributions for the damage you have created and leave. You will begin your own healing in doing so and give the opportunity for the beautiful original people of these islands to heal and to thrive once again.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:09:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am submitting this testimony in support of this bill. I agree with the uses of the land, after the land has been transferred to the trust, and I agree with the transferring of lands to the sovereign native Hawaiian entity upon its recognition by the United States and State of Hawai‘i.

I do question the need for the chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources to be a trustee, as it wouldn't seem as there to be a need or function of them being there, especially as the work to rehabilitate the land will be led by Native Hawaiian organizations and local communities.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:11:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support House Bill 305. Returning the lands to the rightful owners is far overdue. The kānaka are the only rightful heirs having an intimate connection with those lands. Those sacred lands need to recover from close to a century of abuse. The kānaka are the only ones that can do it. We the citizens of Hawaii owe them that as well as the funding for complete remediations.

Please pass this bill.

Bob Douglas

Pana'ewa, Hawaii.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:13:24 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Support of H.B. No. 305

Relating to Land Restoration

Date: 1.27.25

Aloha kākou. I am in strong support of H.B. No. 305, a bill that seeks to restore kuleana lands to their rightful owners. As a Native Hawaiian, I believe this legislation is a critical step towards addressing the historical injustices and land dispossession that have plagued our people for generations.

Kuleana lands hold immense cultural, spiritual, and historical significance for Native Hawaiians. They are the physical embodiment of our connection to the ‘āina (land) and our ancestors. For centuries, these lands have sustained our communities, providing resources for food, shelter, and cultural practices.

However, the arrival of Westerners brought with it a wave of dispossession and alienation of our lands. Kuleana lands were taken through various means, including outright seizure, fraudulent transactions, and legal maneuvers that often exploited our cultural and linguistic differences.

The passage of H.B. No. 305 would represent a significant step towards rectifying these past wrongs. By establishing the Aloha ‘Āina Land Trust and providing a clear mechanism for the return of kuleana lands, this bill would honor the inherent rights of Native Hawaiians to their ancestral lands.

I urge you to support H.B. No. 305 and recognize the importance of restoring kuleana lands to their rightful owners. This is not just about returning land; it is about restoring our cultural identity, our connection to the ‘āina, and the opportunity for future generations of Native Hawaiians to thrive on their ancestral lands.

Mahalo nui loa for your attention to this critical issue.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:26:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

the US military has had use of Hawai'i Kingdom lands for far too long - and sadly they have not been good stewards of the land. Returning these lands to their rightful owners will provide opportunities for housing - which is the issue everyone is talking about. Of course much work must be done to make the land safe - and Aloha 'Āina Trust wil do that.

#keephawaiianlandsinhawaiianhands Eō

Mahalo

Mary Drayer

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:26:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Kamiko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou!

I am here to provide testimony in support of House Bill 305, bringing an Aloha ‘Āina Trust that would give military lands back to the Hawaiian people and the island. This would not only assist with the displacement of native Hawaiians (due to being priced out of our home), but it could decrease military presence in our home, providing more homes and space for native Hawaiians to put down true roots in our homeland. I've been a displaced Hawaiian before, and it takes quite a toll on your mental and physical health to be away from your land and the ocean for so long. I'm back on O‘ahu now, but even as a highly educated woman in my mid-30s, I can't afford a decent apartment on my own, and I've had to move in with family members. We need to continue providing opportunities for native Hawaiians to afford living in their home, to stop displacing native Hawaiians, and to maybe even provide an opportunity for already displaced Hawaiians to come home. It's only right that the land be given to the native people first and foremost.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:58:37 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laulani Teale	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

This measure is in the right direction for Hawai'i. It is time to clean up, demilitarize and restore these lands and waters for future generations.

Aloha

Laulani

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:03:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments: I support HB305 to Create the Aloha Aina Land Trust to rehabilitate and manage lands transferred by the United States military to the State after the leases for those lands expires. The military have destroyed enough of our land and we need it back. Period.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:12:04 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in STRONG support of **HB305**.

Mahalo.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:17:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in full support of HB 305. Hawai‘i has long provided lands to the US military (Hawai‘i is one of the most militarized states in the United States), and the military in return have been poor stewards of the lands, e.g. Red Hill. Military-occupied lands have also threatened multiple rare & native species, especially in places like Pōhakuloa where there are numerous explosive and/or radioactive materials that have created irreparable damage to the land and ecosystem. What the military does is completely unsustainable and unethical, and it is in the best interest of the people of Hawai‘i to return the land to Aloha ‘Āina Land Trust so that they can rehabilitate, restore, and remediate the land so it can thrive. A large portion of native Hawaiian species simply do not exist anywhere else in the world, so we have to do what we can to protect and preserve them.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:20:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

We are looking to protect our land from further expansion/desecration. I stand in support of this bill to restore all areas within Hawai'i and also to prevent further leasing of Hawaiian lands for navy/military operations.

Mahalo for taking the time to consider my testimony!

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:55:33 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanne Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Breanne Fong, and I strongly support HB305. The creation of an Aloha 'Āina Trust will allow the appropriate entity to handle the military lands that will expire in 2029. The U.S. military has already done enough harm to Hawai'i's 'āina, wai, culture, and community and still maintains control over 28,000 acres on O'ahu and Hawai'i islands.

This is the time to put 'āina, land back in the right hands, with community and kanaka, with people who truly love and want to mālama the 'āina. Passing this bill would be a step in the right direction towards restoring the 'āina and remediating the decades of negative impacts caused by the U.S. military.

Thank you for your consideration, and I urge you to pass HB305.

Mahalo,

Breanne Fong

To: Committee on Water and Land, Chair Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair Rachele F. Lamosao
From: Candace Fujikane, UH English professor
Regarding: HB 305 Relating to Land Restoration
Date: January 27, 2025

Aloha mai e Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Water and Land Committee members,

My name is Candace Fujikane, and I teach courses on the stories of land struggles in Hawai‘i to my students in the English Department at the University of Hawai‘i. I strongly urge the committee to support HB 305 Relating to Land Restoration to restore lands devastated by the US military to health and to give Kanaka Maoli and local communities the opportunity to grow a future for Hawai‘i in this era of climate change.

The public is well aware that State leases for lands occupied by the US military expire in 2029. These were lands seized by the US military in the name of “national security” for training US troops to fight in wars overseas. As scholar Kyle Kajihiro has pointed out, in just one example, a federal task force determined that over 13,580 acres of Hawaiian Home Lands were improperly transferred to the US military through presidential executive orders. Approximately 1,356 acres of land in Lualualei were removed from the Hawaiian Homelands inventory by the navy for munitions storage and radio communications complex. Lands were also seized in Humu‘ula, Hawai‘i, and in Waimea, Kaua‘i. As Kajihiro further illustrates, other lands were seized by the military through condemnation of lands. People rose up and fought for these lands near Pearl Harbor, in Lualualei, Kāne‘ohe, Kaho‘olawe, Waikāne, and elsewhere, but they were not able to stop the military’s seizure of lands.

Now, the State of Hawai‘i has the opportunity to do the right thing and to correct these historical injustices and atrocities. Just as the federal government returned the island of Kaho‘olawe back to the State in 1990, HB305 makes it possible for the State to return these lands back to either the original Kanaka Maoli kuleana landowners or to an Aloha ‘Āina Land Trust. These lands will be put back into the use that is most urgently pressing in this time of climate change: 1) Ecological rehabilitation, restoration, and remediation focused on reforesting native species, restoring wetlands, and improving watersheds; 2) Regenerative agriculture systems that support local food production and environmental sustainability; 3) Educational and cultural purposes that work to integrate Indigenous knowledge and practices in managing these lands; 4) Community purposes that include community-led stewardship to empower Native Hawaiian practitioners and local residents. Managed by seven trustees to be appointed by the governor, this trust will work collaboratively with Native Hawaiian organizations and local communities to guide the rehabilitation of transferred lands.

We are facing unprecedented climate change events, and the military has only caused tremendous devastation to lands and waters, most notably to the families who drink the waters contaminated by jet fuel at Red Hill. HB305 gives us a chance to heal these lands in a way that is necessary for our planetary survival. Only this kind of measure allows for a future for Hawai‘i, one where local networks of Kanaka Maoli and local knowledge and practices can restore the land to health. As I teach my students, even as a small, two degree Celsius change in global temperatures is causing the melting of glaciers, the acidification of the ocean, sea level rise, and

the extinction of species, restorative changes like this have exponentially regenerative effects that ripple out across ecosystems and communities—across our very lives—in more ways that we can ever know.

I urge the Water and Land Committee to support HB 305.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:05:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Waianuhea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My name is Lorraine Waianuhea, I am kanaka ʻōiwi, and a resident of Oʻahu. I am submitting testimony in **strong support of HB 305** which would create the Aloha ʻĀina Land Trust and appropriate funds for its operation.

There is no denying that the United States military has had an incredibly detrimental impact on the lands, waters and people of Hawaiʻi - from supporting the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom government, to the bombing of Kahoʻolawe, to the poisoning of civilians at Kapūkakī/Red Hill and Oʻahu's aquifer, our only source of fresh drinking water.

When the U.S. military leases for Pōhakuloa Training Area, Mākua Military Reservation and the Kahuku and Kawailoa-Poamoho Training Areas expire in 2029, those lands must be returned to the people of Hawaiʻi.

Passing HB 305 and establishing the Aloha ʻĀina Land Trust to manage public lands formerly leased by the U.S. military is a critical first step along a long path towards restoration and healing of the ʻāina and people of Hawaiʻi from the devastating ecological, cultural, and social consequences of U.S. military leases.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:07:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Medeiros	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou 'O Alfred Keaka Hiona Medeiros ko'u inoa no Wai'anae mai au...mahalo for taking our testimony and I hope our elected officials listen to the voices of the people, especially those of Hawai'i as we say loud and clear to DeMilitarize Hawai'i. The U.S. Military has been a problem and parasite to Hawai'i since they've illegally occupied our home and have done so much damage to our home of Hawai'i. From killing our island of Kaho'olawe to poisoning our water with the Kapūkakī (Red Hill) spill to the desecration of Mākua, Pōhakuloa and everywhere in Hawai'i where their boots touch...they've nothing but do our home of Hawai'i and the people of Hawai'i harm, even their own as well. I fully support HB305 as it's time to DeMilitarize Hawai'i and give the land back to the people of this land. Enough is enough, they don't deserve the Aloha they've been given or the leasing of lands...they deserve to leave Hawai'i and never come back, as they've been an unwelcomed guest since they've been here. Our Hawai'i can't take anymore destruction and we the people of Hawai'i can't tolerate anymore of what the U.S. Military has been doing...it's time to remove them and restore our home of Hawai'i to what it should be. Mahalo for your time and as I stated from the beginning, I hope you listen to the people, especially us Kānaka Maoli when we say, DEMILITARIZE HAWAII.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:29:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Anne Dahilig	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee,

I am grateful for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB305.

For far too long, the U.S. Military has desecrated stolen Hawaiian Kingdom lands without consent or compensation to the Kānaka Maoli people. The U.S. Army uses 28,892 acres of land on O'ahu and Hawai'i islands for training exercises. The Red Hill incident is a clear example of why the military should not be entrusted to steward Hawai'i's lands and water. With the expiration of state leases of over 30,000 acres of military lands between 2028 and 2030, this bill's passage is essential in paving a path toward ecological rehabilitation and cultural revitalization.

Mahalo,

Kelly Dahilig

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:37:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Warech	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear committee members,

Passage of this bill is absolutely imperative to prepare for the end of many military leases in 2029 and have in place a way to transfer the lands out of military hands and into a land trust where the land can start to be cleaned and rehabilitated. The military has done extreme damage to these lands, lands that were illegally stolen from the Hawaiian people. To add insult to injury, the military was allowed to lease and desecrate these lands for \$1/year which in most cases was never even paid. In 2029, these leases will end. There will be no renewal of leases and the lands will finally be able to return to the stewardship of kuleana land owners. The "state" must take every step now to prepare for this and ensure a path toward restoration, rehabilitation, and return of the land.

We all watched horrifically as Lahaina burned a little over a year ago and we watched in horror again as LA burned and is burning. The military is the biggest destroyer of ecosystems and land here in Hawai'i and one of the biggest contributors to climate change the world over. The military in every EIS says they don't anticipate anything will go wrong or any damage will occur and yet they have poisoned our aquifers, made entire islands uninhabitable, left unexplored ordinances across all islands, and kill tons of precious species unchecked. We are spiraling quickly toward all of our destruction and the only antidote to this is to return land back to rightful Hawaiian hands and stewardship and get off the death march that is the military and their destruction.

The "state" this legislative session has a duty to honor that these leases are ending and commit to setting up processes to honor the original lease terms which is for the lands to be returned as they were.

1.27.25

In Support of HB 305: Return of Military Lands

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony to show my full support of HB 305 and the creation of an Aloha 'Āina Trust that would receive military lands after the expiration of the leases in 2029. Calling for land restoration and remediation, HB 305 is a vital step in restoring communal well being here in Hawai'i through the reconnection of 'āina with its people.

These lands, which we all are aware are stolen Hawaiian Kingdom Lands, have been raped by the military for decades. From Hawai'i Island to Kaua'i, thousands of acres of Hawaiian lands have been subject to years of misuse and mistreatment.

The U.S. military claims occupation of these lands is needed to perpetuate “national safety and security”. Aside from the fact the nation they are referring to is a nation we don't belong to as citizens of Hawai'i, in order to perpetuate true safety and security for anyone, American, Hawaiian, or otherwise, our collective focus needs to be on climate. There will be no nation to “protect” if colonial entities do not come to terms with this fact.

There is no argument that in order to work on climate, environmental, economical, or sociopolitical, lands need to be returned to Indigenous hands. We know how to care for these lands, for we were born from them. The return of these lands are vital for the survival of these islands, its people, and people across the globe.

Time and time again, the U.S. military has proven themselves ill equipped to care for the lands they've stolen. From people to wildlife to precious flora, military “training” has and continues to harm the communities and Earth surrounding it. Children fall asleep to the sounds of firearms, wildlife suffers, and flora become distant memories as the military carves out more and more land. It is time we end this cycle of abuse and put into place steps to return these lands to its rightful stewards.

For these reasons and many more, I show my full support for HB 305.

I urge you to listen to the people.

We will have Land Back, by any means necessary.

-Lennie Espinoza

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:59:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrice Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 305. Restore, remediate and return all occupied military land to the Aloha Aina Land Trust. End military leases.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:53:31 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

These lands were stolen from the Hawaiian Kingdom and I support this bill that returns the to their rightful owners.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:07:35 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jadie Geil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jadie Hōkūala Iijima Geil, and I am a resident born and raised on O'ahu who wholeheartedly supports HB305.

This bill would create the Aloha Aina Land Trust, providing a thoughtful mechanism by which the state can receive and steward the more than 30,000 acres of lands currently leased to the U.S. military. These lands fell into the military's hands by deeply unjust means: first stolen by the U.S. federal government as a result of the 1898 Newlands Resolution, then handed over to the U.S. military in 1964 to be leased for 65 years at a meager rate of \$1 per year.

Over the next 4 years, the state will face a historic opportunity to reverse these injustices, and it must take this responsibility seriously. As became apparent during a Board of Land and Natural Resources meeting in April 2024, there are powerful forces who want to see these lands remain in military hands, and are eager to usher through the necessary measures to ensure that the military's leases are renewed.

As a result of the Red Hill water crisis, the U.S. military's history of environmental negligence has become common knowledge -- not only in Hawai'i, but also at the national level. Now is the time to consider alternatives to the military's continued retention of these lands.

The Aloha Aina Land Trust proposes a viable alternative to military retention, and perhaps more importantly, it offers a different lens through which the state can understand and value these lands. Though in need of serious environmental rehabilitation, these lands hold the potential to be of much greater value to the citizens of Hawai'i once returned to their rightful owners.

Although I am not Hawaiian myself, I have had the privilege of learning from enough Kanaka Maoli teachers to understand that 'āina is priceless. Many of the lands currently held by the military -- take Mākua Valley, for example -- hold immeasurable cultural and spiritual significance, such that no "appraisal process" (especially none that take place behind closed doors) could ever determine their true value.

I believe that creating a Land Trust overseen by trustees invested in uncovering the "true value" of this land -- the 'āina's capacity to nourish, educate, and bring people together, as it once did --

is the best thing the state can do to move beyond these painful histories. Justice is long overdue; we must restore righteousness to these lands that have been misused for far too long.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my testimony.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:41:07 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jhonalyn Cuestas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I support HB305. The lands that are being leased to US military are stolen Hawaiian Kingdom lands. The US Military are not good caretakers. All acres of lands should be returned to Kuleana landowners and be restored. They are home to endangered and threatened species. Both environment and wildlife are at risk due to the history of harm and negligence due to the military exercises. The US Army created scenarios for the return for at least some of these lands. We need to prepare a proper mechanism to receive these lands and begin rehabilitation.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:07:55 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 305, which seeks to create an Aloha ‘Āina Trust to ensure that lands currently under lease to the U.S. military are returned, cleaned, and restored to their rightful stewards upon the expiration of those leases.

Between 2028 and 2030, over 30,000 acres of military-leased lands across Hawai‘i will reach the end of their lease terms. These lands are not just parcels of property; they are stolen lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom, unlawfully taken without consent or compensation to Kānaka Maoli. HB 305 provides a necessary and overdue mechanism to receive these lands back, clean them of military contamination, and ensure their return to the stewardship of those who have rightful claim to them.

The U.S. military has repeatedly proven itself to be a poor steward of ‘āina and wai. We need only look to the devastating contamination caused by the Red Hill fuel storage facility to understand the depth of harm caused to our environment, our people, and our future generations. Beyond Red Hill, military activities have left toxic legacies across Hawai‘i, including unexploded ordnance, poisoned watersheds, and degraded ecosystems. For decades, the militarization of Hawaiian land has prioritized strategic interests over the well-being of Kānaka Maoli and kama‘āina.

HB 305 addresses this historical and ongoing injustice by establishing a pathway for these lands to be cleaned and returned. Importantly, it aligns with the scenarios presented by the U.S. Army itself last year, which suggested retaining only a fraction of the current lease lands. This makes it clear that returning large portions of these lands is not only possible but already under consideration by the military.

The expiration of these leases presents an extraordinary opportunity for us to move toward justice. Establishing the Aloha ‘Āina Trust would enable us to begin the necessary work of healing lands and returning them to those who have stewarded them for generations before the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

By supporting HB 305, you affirm Hawai‘i’s commitment to restoring justice, protecting Hawai‘i’s ‘āina and wai, and uplifting the rights of Kānaka Maoli. I urge you to pass this measure

and take a critical step toward addressing the harms of militarization and the ongoing impacts of colonialism in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Areerat Worawongwasu.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:47:33 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha committee members, I strongly support HB 305 relating to land restoration. It is an exciting possibility that these acres upon acres of stolen Hawaiian Kingdom lands could be once again used for community purposes and to benefit Hawai‘i instead of training grounds for the U.S. military, one of the world’s largest polluters. HB 305 provides a mechanism to receive these lands, clean them up, and return them to rightful owners.

“Mālama ‘āina” (to care for the land) is not just a cultural value but a way of life and key to living and surviving on these islands. The military has proven that it cannot adequately care for the environment, nor is it interested in doing so – it simply is not their function or goal. Their presence ultimately hurts security and safety for our local community more than it helps. Those of us fortunate to live in Hawai‘i, and especially those getting paid to represent and serve Hawai‘i’s people, must not allow Hawai‘i to continue to be used as training grounds for the U.S. to terrorize our neighbors abroad while harming life here.

Anyone paying attention should be able to see that we are heading toward ecological and even societal collapse. We cannot continue this trajectory. Let these military leases expire and make sure they are not renewed but rather returned to Kānaka Maoli to steward and use which will benefit us all. Please vote YES on HB 305.

Mahalo,

Kristen Young
Honolulu resident

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:14:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support of this HB305.

It's past time for the US military to stop destroying Hawaiian lands and for the land to be returned and healed. Aloha Aina is more important for the survival of humanity than preparing for war in an endless war economy. When the military leases end the land must be returned and healed. Having an Aloha Aina land trust to manage this transition is vitally important.

Lynda Williams

Hilo

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:44:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalikoonaupūpuna Kalāhiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Kalikoonaupūpuna Kalāhiki, a kama of Ko‘olaupoko living in Kailua. I support this bill. The lands that have been leased to the military are stolen Hawaiian Kingdom lands. Over the course of these leases, the community has bore witness to the inefficacies of the military’s care for these lands—through continual ecological destruction, damages to watersheds, desecrating culturally and spiritually significant land, and displacing kanaka. The US Army has already created scenarios for the return for at least some of these lands, so it is essential to establish the mechanism through which lands held by the military are returned, remediated, restored, and rehabilitated. The ecological and cultural restoration of these lands must be conducted with partnership with surrounding communities, and this bill ensures that. The aloha aina land trust is a step towards restoring these lands to a state of pono.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:56:15 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Its in the best interest of the people, not the corporate entities, to prioritize land back to prevent more damages environmentally and politically than what has already occurred.

Mahalo

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:19:02 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Colón	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Andrea Colón-Aldeguer, votes to support HB305. I believe the land should be demilitarized, the land restored/rehabilitated as well as the land being put back into the care of kuleana land owners and eventually the Hawaiian nation.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:08:08 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB305. In this time of catastrophic climate change we need to have the right groups making decisions for our environment and the land. The US military, which is the enforcing agency for Hawaii's illegal occupation, has a long track record of accelerating climate change and causing destruction to Hawaii's water, soil, animals, plants, and people. From the Red Hill disaster to military 'games' like RIMPAC, the US military has shown time and again that their interests lie in destruction, not preservation. Kuleana Land Owners will represent Hawaiian people and those who support them. They will rebuild and restore and contribute to larger global efforts to maintain our planet not just for us, but for our children in the future. Furthermore, when the 'State' of Hawaii says they want to preserve Hawaiian culture, returning land back to the rightful owners is an inseparable part of that promise. Kanaka cannot be separated from the land, and because of this connection they will be the best and rightful caretakers.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:59:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marirai Tauotaha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing in strong SUPPORT of HB 305 which "Creates the Aloha ‘Āina Land Trust to rehabilitate and manage lands transferred by the United States military to the State after the leases for those lands expires and appropriates funds."

He mea kūpono kēiā. This is clearly the pono thing to do. Plain and simple. How it will be done remains to be seen. However something like this, restoring ‘āina, bringing back life to land that has been decimated and destroyed for decades, is a wonderful sign of hope and inspiration for all people of Hawai‘i.

I am personally hoping for the military to provide its own support via personnel, machinery, and whatever resources they can make available in this pono endeavor.

I have often dreamed of a program that allows newly posted service members the opportunity to contribute their time, energy, and sweat to this place. By giving a bit of themselves and showing aloha for this ‘āina, working side by side with residents and kanaka maoli, we may see better relationships and overall experiences for everyone in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo to all of our leaders who support this bill!

me ka ha‘aha‘a,

maui

Marirai Maui Tauotaha

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:01:54 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha mai Kākou,

`O wau `o Trinette Furtado. Nono wau ma Hamakualoa o ka moku puni o Maui. I am testifying today on HB305, which proposes to create a land trust to manage and mālama military land leases that expire in 2029.

Given the gross stewardship of the military and its contractors with regards to ALL `Āina they belligerently occupy within Kō Pae `Āina Hawai`i, I wholeheartedly support HB305, which would provide a mechanism to mālama `Āina and return it to Kānaka. These are stolen lands that have been abused for far too long.

One only has to look at the grave and hazardous issues we have BECAUSE of the military. Haleakalā and the diesel fuel cleanup (with its 2nd year anniversary tomorrow), the catastrophe of Red Hill and O`ahu`s wai, Barking Sands, Pohakuloa...

NUFF ALREADY.

They are horrible tenants.

They inhabit our `Āina for a pittance.

They pollute our `Āina and petulantly act like they need do nothing (or at best, little) about it.

In any other situation where there is that kind of transactional relationship, the landlord/property manager would've kicked these kinds of tenants to the curb; NOT renew leases to continue to desecrate and deplete our `Āina.

I have been part of meetings concerning the spill atop Haleakalā and it is disappointing and disgusting how unimportantly important this `Āina is to the military. A self-righteous entitlement that needs to be reminded of its place in THIS place.

I support creating a trust that isn't influenced or peopled by military or real estate interests and that will truly `auamo this kuleana: the privilege of caring for this `Āina. He mea nui. Now's the time.

Mahalo for this opportunity to be heard.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:15:05 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalai Hanohano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha no kua,

This is one of the most imperative bills that would benefit Hawaii and her people. The benefits far outweigh the opposing consequences. Let us move forward in simply doing what is pono for the Hawaiian people and our future generations.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:55:48 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
melissa tomlinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kakou,

This Bill needs the full support of every legislative body in Hawai'i! I subsist on the continent and yet even I know how vital and necessary for the protection of Hawai'i it is to not renew the military leases that will be expiring in the coming years. Creating a land trust for the proper transfer of said lands is a necessary step. Please support this Bill! There's much more to say and unfortunately due to a recent death in the family my time and capacity has been limited and I'm cutting it close to the wire on my submission. However, the significance and importance of this Bill is so necessary I did not want to miss the opportunity to put in a request to you all from across the Moana to Aloha 'Āina and give this Bill the support it deserves.

best,

melissa tomlinson

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:19:35 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Bring back our 'āina to us kānaka! It is our kūleana to mālama the 'āina.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:22:44 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Land destroyed and desecrated by military occupation MUST be replenished and restored. We should have funds allocated to this trust and it should be ready to reshape Hawaiian lands to support Hawaiian needs.

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:49:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loraine Kanervisto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Return Hawaiian lands to kānaka maoli

HB-305

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:30:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kaleolani Keliikoa-Kapoloū I am born and raised in Wai‘anae. My 26 years in Wai‘anae I grew up seeing and hearing the ALOHA ‘ĀINA ‘OLE of the US military has/still done to our land, these lands are from the Hawaiian kingdom and belong to the kanaka maoli. While these land are being abused more and more by the US military our ecosystem fails threatening and destroying organisms living there. Scenarios from the US army to return some lands is not enough, we need action this is why I support house bill 305. We as Kanaka ‘ōiwi are not waiting around for scraps anymore, we are here to stand for the right to our ‘Āina! Kapu aloha