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*Executive Director*

*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*  
**KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**  
**KŌMIKINA MĀLAMA KAHO'OLAWE**

811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793  
Telephone (808) 243-5020 Fax (808) 243-5885  
Website: <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov>

**Testimony of**  
**MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPTI**  
**Executive Director**

**Before the House Committee on**

**JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 6, 2025**  
**2:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 307 HOUSE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES**

House Bill 307 HD1 authorizes the Director of Finance to issue a special number plate for registered owner's vehicle commemorating the Island of Kaho'olawe. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) strongly supports this measure.

The intent of this measure is to commemorate the struggle and efforts relating to the return, cleanup and continuing restoration of the Island of Kahoolawe. This measure brings a daily reminder of the sacrifices made by the people of Hawaii to protest the bombing of Kaho'olawe and the efforts made by our leaders to get the island returned to the State of Hawaii. This measure also provides a continuing reminder and funding that the efforts are still not completed to heal the devastation done in the past and that the work continues for future generations.



Testimony Before The  
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (JHA)  
**IN SUPPORT OF HB307 HD1**  
February 6, 2025, 2:00 p.m., Room 325

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

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

**KUA supports HB307 HD1 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona.**

This bill would create a special license plate to recognize and raise funds needed to help our Hawai'i community fulfill the collective promise and obligation to heal Kaho'olawe. Funds raised would go into the Kohe Mālamalama o Kanaloa Protect Kaho'olawe Fund. A new and cherished member of our E Alu Pū network is the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO), long time champion and steward of Kaho'olawe.

A primary function of KUA includes development of an 'auwai, a stream of resources, tools, bridges, relationships, and networks that help to cultivate and take our communities' work to greater levels of collective impact. One of these resource pathways includes streams that raise funds to help community work. **We trust that a share of the resources generated from this special license plate will go to support some of PKO's activities which are core to connecting our broader community to 'āina at Kaho'olawe and across our state.**

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources that they have cared for and depended on for generations since time immemorial. **We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence, is about**

**long-term investment and a vision of ‘āina momona.** To get there requires taking the steps necessary for greater self-sufficiency, development of new and more innovative career pathways, mindsets, relationships, and resources for mālama ‘āina efforts that encourage and build upon the time-tested techniques of our ancestors in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to submit testimony. Please **PASS** HB307 HD1.

**Aloha ‘Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.**

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:54:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hardy Spoehr	The Spoehr Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony for HB307. Kaho`olawe is a gem which provides a window and passage for our island people to view and experience our island culture. It is an island with a special history tying us back directly to the manifestations of Kanaloa. We look forward to the time when we can demonstrate our spiritual support for the island through this mechanism.

Hardy Spoehr

**PROTECT KAHO‘OLAWE ‘OHANA**  
**1733 Wili Pa Loop, B-1**  
**Wailuku, Hawai‘i 96793**



February 4, 2025

Testimony of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana  
Before the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs (JHA)

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 2:00 pm

IN SUPPORT OF HB 307

Aloha e Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs. My name is Joshua Kaakua and I am testifying on behalf of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana in **strong support of HB 307** Relating to Special Number Plates to recognize the island of Kaho‘olawe and the Aloha ‘Āina movement that it inspired.

January 4, 2026 will mark the 50th year since nine individuals landed on the island of Kaho‘olawe to draw attention to the injustices and discrimination experienced by Native Hawaiians and were unexpectedly astounded and deeply moved by the abuse and destruction that they witnessed of a fragile, starkly beautiful and spiritually powerful island. This gave rise to the organization of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and its fiscal non-profit charitable entity, Kohe Mālamalama o Kanaloa Protect Kaho‘olawe Fund (‘Ohana).

A civil suit, *Aluli v Brown*, filed by the ‘Ohana in 1976 led to a court-mandated Consent Decree in 1980 under which the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana was recognized as a steward working for the restoration of the island; was provided access, with volunteers, to engage in spiritual, cultural and educational activities; and began to jointly govern the island with the U.S. Navy. In 1977, the ‘Ohana lost two members, George Helm and Kimo Mitchell were lost at sea in the waters off of Kaho‘olawe during a protest of the bombing.

On October 22, 1990 the bombing of the island was stopped by U.S. President George H.W. Bush and all military use of the island was terminated by the U.S. Congress in 1993 under Title X of the 1994 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, which authorized the conveyance of Kaho‘olawe and its surrounding waters to the State of Hawai‘i and also authorized \$400 million for ordnance removal.

The ordnance removal program ended in 2004. The State of Hawai‘i manages the island through the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission under HRS 6K, established in July 1993 in partnership with the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and Kohe Mālamalama o Kanaloa Protect Kaho‘olawe Fund.

Kaho‘olawe has become a model of co-stewardship of Hawaiian ancestral lands by community groups working together with the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Kaho‘olawe is an iconic symbol of Aloha ‘Āina - the recognition and acceptance of generations of Native Hawaiians since 1976 of the kuleana/responsibility to love, care for and respect our precious islands and restore Hawai‘i sovereignty. Kaho‘olawe was the piko/catalyst for the dynamic cultural renaissance of Hawaiian hula, language, arts nationalism and pride that began in the 1970s and prevails today, almost 50 years later.

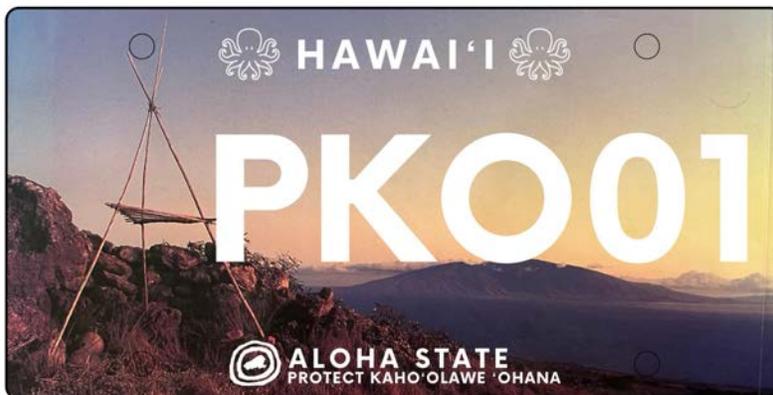
Our ‘Ohana recommends and supports special number plates for Kaho‘olawe in order to:

- Encourage awareness about the injustices endured by Kaho‘olawe and Native Hawaiians and how Kaho'olawe's cultural and natural resources and Hawaiian cultural and spiritual practices were restored through longterm (50-years) commitment, sacrifice, dedication, and constancy by generations of Native Hawaiians and those who call Hawai‘i home;
- Educate the general public about how the sacred nature of the island of Kaho‘olawe as well as other sacred places in Hawai‘i are able to be revived and protected through dedicated volunteer co-stewardship and the acknowledgement and revitalization of Native Hawaiian ancestral knowledge and related cultural and spiritual practices, as protected under the Hawai‘i State Constitution (Article XII. Section 7);
- Acknowledge the efforts, work, ingenuity and lives that have been given in the pursuit of the protection of Native Hawaiian lands, people and Hawai‘i sovereignty; and

- Connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho‘olawe's cultural and environmental recovery and serve as a reminder of the strength of collective action.

Having a Kaho‘olawe special number plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe ‘Ohana and all those in the broader community who have contributed to and benefitted from this important Kaho‘olawe Alohaa‘Āina movement.

Importantly, the proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kahoolawe ‘Ohana, further supporting the important work collectively conducted in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations. In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this special number plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kaho‘olawe’s healing and stewardship. Here is a possible design for the plate:



We have started a petition for supporters to demonstrate their support. As of Monday February 3, 2025, we have 250+ signers among whom the majority have said they are interested in ordering a Kaho‘olawe special license plate when they become available. Here is GIS information about this petition showing statewide interest among signers.

https://uhm.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/a408eea8bb8748229b1b1e88b4770440

Below is some information about how existing special number plates work:

### How to Get Special License Plates - Cost

1. Download and Complete the application form.
2. Visit any satellite city hall.
3. Surrender your current Certificate of Registration and License Plates for your vehicle.
4. The initial cost is **\$35.50**. After that, the **annual** renewal fee is **\$25**. The organization receives **\$20** with each payment.



### Hawaii Specialty License Plates

The Polynesian Voyaging Society, Haleakala National Park and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park license plates are available to provide monetary support for these programs.

- + Where can I get a Specialty License Plate?
- + How do I apply for a Specialty Organization License Plate?

### Organization License Plate

The Organization License Plates Program assists qualified not-for-profit organizations to raise funds for community public health, education or general welfare programs.

- + Where can I get an Organization License Plate?
- + What is the process to obtain an Organization License Plate?
- + I have an organization that would like to participate in the program.



Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 307.

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 2:48:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Craig neff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Aina is the past ,present , and future of what is need for Hawaii.

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 3:31:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Momi Wheeler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha ‘Āina,

In support of HB307 HD1, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho‘olawe. This initiative marks a significant moment in history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kaho‘olawe by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island’s restoration and cultural revitalization.

Kaho‘olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative Kaho‘olawe license plate will honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO as well as bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the PKO, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.

HB307 offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of the cultural and environmental recovery on Kaho‘olawe. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The creation of a Kaho‘olawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the PKO, all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause, and a lasting legacy of commitment to the healing and stewardship of Kaho‘olawe.

Mahalo JHA committee, Chair Tarnas, and Vice Chair Poepoe for your support of HB307 HD1, a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho‘olawe.

‘Āina Aloha,

Momi Wheeler

Kea‘au, HI 96749

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:11:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pookela hanson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A Kaho‘olawe license plate is necessary for Hawai‘i because it serves as a visible and lasting reminder of the island’s history, cultural significance, and ongoing restoration efforts. Here’s why:

1. Honoring Kaho‘olawe’s History

Kaho‘olawe has a painful yet powerful history, from its role as a place of learning for Native Hawaiians to its decades of military use and subsequent reclamation. A specialty plate would educate the public about this history and recognize the struggles of those who fought for its return.

2. Supporting Restoration Efforts

Proceeds from specialty license plates often fund initiatives related to their cause. A Kaho‘olawe plate could directly contribute to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) and other efforts to restore the island’s ecosystem, preserve cultural sites, and support community access.

3. Symbol of Aloha ‘āina

Kaho‘olawe represents the resilience of aloha ‘āina (love for the land). Having a license plate dedicated to the island reinforces this value, encouraging residents to stay connected to their environment and the responsibility of stewardship.

#### 4. Public Awareness and Engagement

Many in Hawai‘i, especially younger generations, may not be fully aware of Kaho‘olawe’s significance. A specialty plate would keep the island’s story in daily conversations, inspiring more people to get involved in its restoration and preservation.

#### 5. A Unifying Symbol

The movement to protect Kaho‘olawe brought people together from across the islands and was a turning point for Hawaiian activism. A license plate would honor that collective effort and remind Hawai‘i’s residents of the power of community action.

A Kaho‘olawe specialty plate is more than just a design, its a statement of commitment to history, culture, and restoration.

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:24:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Margaret Pulver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the House Committee on Culture and Arts,

Please accept this testimony in full support of the a special license plate to support the restoraiton and revitalization of Kaho'olawe. This type of action will not only bring more awareness to the work being done in the Reserve, but will also provide a sustainable source of income to the organizations responsible for stewarding the island's resources for future generations to experience.

I strongly support this measure and hope you will see the value in passing it.

Respectfully,

Margaret Pulver

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:26:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laiana Kanoa-Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kaho'olawe Aloha 'Āina!

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:34:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaulu Luuwai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill to recognize the decades of progress made to restore Kaho‘olawe following years of abuse and the living practice of aloha ‘āina.

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:01:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lurline McGregor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Like Hōkūle‘a, Kaho‘olawe is a source of immense cultural pride to the Hawaiian people. It has been 50 years since the first landing by a group of Hawaiians who were determined to put a stop to the desecration of our lands. Through years of struggle, including the sacrifices of George Helm and Kimo Mitchell, the Navy finally returned the island to the Hawaiian people. The Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana have been capable stewards of the island, bringing it back to life and passing on the kuleana to next generations. Kaho‘olawe deserves to be recognized through the issuance of a license plate so people will know how important this island is to our people and to support it’s continued stewardship. Mahalo

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:08:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kyle K Kajihiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support of HB 307 – Creating a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate

To: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee.

From: Kyle Kajihiro, Assistant Professor, Ethnic Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

February 5, 2025

I strongly support House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho‘olawe. This initiative marks a significant place and moment in Hawai‘i's history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kaho‘olawe by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island’s restoration and cultural revitalization.

Kaho‘olawe is a place of great cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to Kānaka Maoli. This commemorative license plate will honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO and raise awareness about the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.

Kaho‘olawe also represents a crucial turning point for the people of Hawai‘i, its elected officials, and the military, where the restoration and care of ‘āina became a core value and a sacred duty of all of us. All people of Hawai‘i owe a debt of gratitude to the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana whose vision, leadership, and sacrifice helped to reorient our society.

This bill reminds us of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kaho‘olawe’s healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Statement of: **Burt Lum, Individual**

Testimony presented before the

**House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs**

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of

**HB307, HD1**

**RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES.**

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

I, Burt Lum, offer my **Strong Support** for HB307, HD1, which proposes the establishment of a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho‘olawe. This initiative is a profound recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first landings on Kaho‘olawe by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO), a group whose steadfast commitment embodies *Aloha ‘Āina* and the enduring spirit of collective action to restore and protect the land.

Kaho‘olawe holds a unique place in the cultural, historical, and spiritual landscape of Hawai‘i. For Native Hawaiians, the island is a sacred symbol of resilience, cultural revival, and environmental stewardship. This commemorative license plate will serve as a tribute to the efforts and sacrifices of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana while raising awareness about the island’s ongoing restoration. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly support the PKO, ensuring the continuation of their vital work to heal Kaho‘olawe and preserve it for generations to come.

For decades, the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and countless supporters have demonstrated a deep love and respect for the land by tirelessly working to reclaim it from the damage of military use, restore its natural ecosystems, and reconnect it with its cultural significance.

The creation of a Kaho‘olawe license plate is not merely a symbolic gesture—it is a tangible step toward preserving the legacy of *Aloha ‘Āina*. It invites the broader community to join in the effort to restore Kaho‘olawe, fostering a collective sense of pride and shared responsibility.

I urge you to support this important bill and help create a legacy that reflects our shared values of stewardship, respect, and love for the land.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Davianna Pōmaika'i McGregor  
1942 Naio St.  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 307 RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES  
TO RECOGNIZE THE ISLAND OF KAHO'OLAWE

COMMITTEE ON Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Thursday, February 6, 2025 @ 2:00pm

Aloha Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs. I am Dr. Davianna Pōmaika'i McGregor, a professor emerita of Ethnic Studies and Oral History at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa and a longtime/kua member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana. I am testifying in strong support of HB 307 Relating to Special Number Plates to recognize the island of Kaho'olawe and the Aloha 'Āina Movement.

HB 307 Section 1. provides an important outline of the history and significance of the Kaho'olawe Aloha 'Āina movement and the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana which I support. I also support the testimony of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana in support of this bill.

Our Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana recommends and supports special number plates for Kaho'olawe in order to educate the general public about the significance of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe and to acknowledge the 50 years of work and aloha to stop the destructive military use of the island and restore her natural and cultural resources. It is a good way to connect with and spread the mission of aloha 'āina throughout our islands. Whenever one would see a Kaho'olawe license plate, one would remember the island, the heroic efforts to restore her spirit and beauty and Aloha 'Āina for all of our islands.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 307. Aloha

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:08:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bailie Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kaho'olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.

This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kahoolawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The creation of a Kaho'olawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.

In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kaho'olawe's healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:54:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamara Luthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,  
House Committee of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Subject: Support for the Creation of a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate

Dear Honorable Members of the House Committee of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair Tarnas and Vice Chair Poepoe,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kahoolawe. This initiative marks a significant moment in history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kahoolawe by the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island's restoration and cultural revitalization.

Kaho'olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.

This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho'olawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The creation of a Kahoolawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.

In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kahoolawe's healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Tamara Luthy, PhD

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:56:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Nanea Lo and I write in **strong support of House Bill 307**, which seeks to establish a commemorative license plate honoring Kaho‘olawe. This bill is especially significant as it marks 50 years since the first landings on Kaho‘olawe by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO), a movement that has fought tirelessly for the island’s restoration and cultural revitalization.

Kaho‘olawe is more than an island—it is a sacred place, deeply tied to Native Hawaiian identity, history, and cultural practice. The Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana’s decades of activism, rooted in aloha ‘āina, have ensured that Kaho‘olawe remains a site of learning, healing, and connection for generations to come. The creation of this license plate will not only honor the struggle to reclaim and restore the island but also serve as a reminder of our collective responsibility to protect our sacred places.

Proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly support the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, helping to sustain their work in cultural education, environmental stewardship, and advocacy. This initiative is an opportunity for our community to participate in Kaho‘olawe’s ongoing restoration and to uplift the values of mālama ‘āina and self-determination.

**I urge you to pass HB307 and support this meaningful effort to commemorate 50 years of dedication to Kaho‘olawe’s healing and future.**

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

PKO Member

Kanaka Maoli / Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Committee Membe

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:59:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB 307 – Creating a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate**

**To: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee.**

**From: Name and email**

**Date: February 5, 2025**

**Subject: Support for HB307 Creation of a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate**

**Dear Honorable Members,**

**I am writing in strong support of House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho’olawe. This initiative marks a significant moment in history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kaho’olawe by the Protect Kaho’olawe Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island’s restoration and cultural revitalization.**

**Kaho’olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.**

**This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho’olawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The creation of a Kaho’olawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.**

**In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kaho’olawe’s healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Aloha,  
Ashley Lee, MS4**

**John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i**

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:01:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:09:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Faith Kahale Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**February 4, 2025**

**Aloha Chair Tarnas and Vice-Chair Poepoe,**

**Please support HB307 HD1.**

**Mahalo nui,**

**Faith Kahale Saito**

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:38:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
E E Keliipuleole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB307 – Creating a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate

To: Members of the Hawai'i State Legislature,  
House Committee of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
From: Eleonora Keliipuleole and Ohana (16 within our Ohana not including myself) 2203 Ahe Place, 2207 Ahe Place, 2203A Ahe Place  
Honolulu, Hawai'i. 96816  
(808) 554-1205  
paliku7@yahoo.com  
Date: February 4, 2025

Subject: Support for the Creation of a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate

Dear Honorable Members of the House Committee of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair Tarnas and Vice Chair Poepoe,

We are writing in strong support of House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kahoolawe. This initiative marks a significant moment in history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kahoolawe by the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island's restoration and cultural revitalization.

Kaho'olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process.

The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.

This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho'olawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The creation of a Kahoolawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.

In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kahoolawe's healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Puna Keliipuleole

2203 Ahe Place, Honolulu, HI 96816 Email: [paliku7@yahoo.com](mailto:paliku7@yahoo.com)

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:44:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kodie Solis-Kalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui, my name is Kodie Solis-Kalani and I come from Paauilo, Hamakua, Hawaii. I am so proud to support HB307 HD1, and ask you to do the same. Kahoolawe is an aina known for its resurgence of aloha aina and cultural practices, having a commorative license plate will raise awareness for this place, and continue to efforts to perpetuate our Hawaiian culture. Mahalo.

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:56:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amber Namaka Whitehead	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the recognition of the island of Kaho'olawe and elevation of Aloha 'Āina via special number plates. Aloha 'Āina! I ola Kanaloa, i ola kākou!

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:16:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marvin Kaleo Manuel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB307 HD1.

The special number plates will not only honor the "Kaho'olawe 9" and 50 years of protection for the island of Kaho'olawe, but will also provide additional financial support for continued restoration efforts. Seeing these plates out on our roads will bring awareness to the amazing work happening on Kaho'olawe and remind us of our commitment to caring for Kaho'olawe for the next 50 years.

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:49:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipulaumakaniolono Keala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, mahalo nui for considering this bill relating to special number plates for the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and the greater aloha ‘āina movement that has been so formative of modern Hawaiian history. This bill is in some sense commemorative but more importantly it reminds us to persist in aloha ‘āina for the future of Hawai‘i and its people.

With this license we hope to commemorate the origin of aloha ‘āina in the Hawaiian renaissance, when nine kānaka and allies landed at Kuheia on Kaho‘olawe ready and willing to brave the near certain destruction of their own bodies by the latent explosive energy remaining in the copious amounts of unexploded ordinances on the island of Kaho‘olawe. Built off of this willingness to give one's life for a vision of a future not categorically determined by the obtuse logic of militarized capitalist domination but rather on a future rooted firmly in aloha for the ‘āina and those nourished by it, the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana is brimming with members who have and still continue to give their lives wholeheartedly to our original mission of aloha ‘āina, some of the most prominent of these members have been George Helm and Kimo Mitchell and most recently uncle Emmett Aluli. The gift of their lives is a burden beared by every citizen of Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i is unequivocally a better place for their sacrifice and so we owe it to their legacy that aloha ‘āina persist well into the next 50 years and forevermore.

This is the reminder to which I alluded in my introduction, though a meagre license plate, it is our hope as the PKO that the glimmer of aloha ‘āina continue to shine into people's lives so that they may be regularly reminded that these hegemonic modes of production, the incredible stress of being priced out of our homeland, the desecration of our sacred sites and the poisoning of our water, that these realities of our existence are not inevitable. It is possible to live differently. Aloha ‘āina.

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:12:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fully support and urge your passage of this bill. HB307HD1 would authorize issuance of a special numbered license plate to recognize the island of Kaho‘olawe. Fundraising proceeds resulting from the sales of such license plate would help the Kohe Malamalama O Kanaloa Protect Kahoolawe Fund to continue its work to educate the public about Kahoolawe and to restore the island.

## **Testimony in Support of HB 307 – Creating a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate**

To: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee.

From: Jasmine Branco, jbranco1mt@gmail.com

Date: February 5, 2025

Subject: Support for HB307 Creation of a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate

Dear Honorable Members,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho'olawe. This initiative marks a significant moment in history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kaho'olawe by the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island's restoration and cultural revitalization.

Kaho'olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.

This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho'olawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The creation of a Kaho'olawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.

In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kaho'olawe's healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,  
Jasmine Branco

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:00:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuulei Salzer	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

February 4, 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 307 RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES

TO RECOGNIZE THE ISLAND OF KAHO‘OLAWE

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND ARTS

Aloha Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Ku‘ulei Salzer, and I am testifying as someone who has had the privilege of volunteering on Kaho‘olawe. **I strongly support HB 307**, relating to special number plates that honor the island of Kaho‘olawe and the Aloha ‘Āina movement it has inspired.

Volunteering on Kaho‘olawe was a transformative experience for me. I witnessed firsthand the island's fragile beauty and the profound efforts of many to restore and heal this sacred place. Kaho‘olawe is not just a piece of land, it is a living symbol of resilience, cultural revival, and the deep-seated responsibility to protect and honor our ‘āina. For generations, it has served as a beacon of the Aloha ‘Āina movement, inspiring countless individuals to care for and respect our islands while advocating for justice and Hawaiian rights.

As we approach January 2026, marking the 50th anniversary of the initial landings that brought attention to the injustices faced by Kanaka Maoli and the devastating destruction of Kaho‘olawe, it is crucial to reflect on the progress made. Those initial landings sparked a movement that created the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana.

Key milestones, such as the cessation of bombing in 1990, the return of the island to the State of Hawai‘i in 1993, and the co-stewardship model established between the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and the State, highlight the power of collective action and commitment. Kaho‘olawe’s story is one of healing, dedication, and a deeply rooted kuleana to protect our ‘āina for future generations.

This proposed special number plate is more than just a symbolic gesture. It represents the ongoing work to restore Kaho‘olawe and educate the public about the island’s history, cultural

significance, and the injustices endured by Kanaka Maoli. This special license plate allows individuals to make a direct contribution to the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana.

Through my time on Kaho‘olawe, I have seen how access to the island provides an irreplaceable opportunity for people to connect with its sacredness, learn from its history, and actively participate in its restoration. By supporting this bill, we ensure that the legacy of stewardship, education, and cultural revival tied to Kaho‘olawe continues for the next generation.

I urge you to support HB 307 and create a lasting tribute to Kaho‘olawe’s healing and the strength of the Aloha ‘Āina movement. Together, we can honor the sacrifices made and acknowledge the progress achieved.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Ku‘ulei Salzer

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:56:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Donna Gamiao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB 307 – Creating a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate

To: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee.

From: Donna Gamiao (dgamiao@gmail.com)

Date: February 5, 2025

Subject: Support for HB307 Creation of a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate

Dear Honorable Members,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho’olawe. This initiative marks a significant moment in history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kaho’olawe by the Protect Kaho’olawe Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island’s restoration and cultural revitalization.

Kaho’olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.

This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho’olawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The creation of a Kaho’olawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.

In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kaho’olawe’s healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,  
Donna Gamiao

## **Testimony in Support of HB307 – Creating a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate**

To: Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,  
House Committee of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Teresa Mondoy-Jack  
515 Naniakea Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
(808) 345-1073  
tmondoy.jack@gmail.com

Date: February 4, 2025

Subject: Support for the Creation of a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate

Dear Honorable Members of the House Committee of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair Tarnas and Vice Chair Poepoe,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kahoolawe. This initiative marks a significant moment in history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kahoolawe by the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island's restoration and cultural revitalization.

Kaho'olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.

This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho'olawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The creation of a Kahoolawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.

In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kahoolawe's healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,  
Teresa Mondoy-Jack

(808) 345-1073

tmondoy.jack@gmail.com

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:58:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

A license plate for Kaho'olawe isn't just another piece of metal. It's our chance to honor the people who've spent 50 years fighting for this sacred island. These aren't just activists - they're mothers and fathers, lawyers and doctors, scientists and ethnobotinists, teachers and students, who've given up weekends, vacations, and time from their ohana to heal a place most people never see.

The money from these plates goes straight to the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana. They're the ones out there in the sun and rain, doing the real work. And trust me, there's plenty of hard work left to do.

You know what's funny? Sometimes the smallest things make the biggest difference. These plates won't just sit on cars - they'll tell stories. Stories about an island that survived bombing, about people who wouldn't take no for an answer, about a culture that refuses to fade away.

We need your vote on this bill. Not because we want recognition, but because this island needs us. And fifty years from now, when our keiki ask what we did to save this wahi pana of Hawaii, we want to have a good answer.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

TESTIMONY  
of  
**KIM KU'ULEI BIRNIE**  
Before  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
Thursday, February 6, 2025, 2:00 PM, Conference room 325

**HB 307 HD 1: RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES**

**In Support**

Greetings to Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee,

As a 5<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of Kaho'olawe ranchers, a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana for more than 35 years, and a director of Kohe Malamalama o Kanaloa – Protect Kaho'olawe Fund, I offer wholehearted support of the effort to establish special license plates to recognize the island of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe.

Special plates are a fitting celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and the movement to stop the bombing of Hawaiian lands. It recognizes aloha 'āina as more than a rallying cry, but a caring, responsible, reciprocal way of life that has spread throughout the Hawaiian islands.

The capacity to restore and regreen the island will be expanded, preserving and protecting the island for future generations. Most significantly, special plates provide a pathway for the thousands of volunteers as well as the broader community to contribute to the stewardship and healing of the island.

In the Native Hawaiian health arena, where I work, we look to Kaho'olawe as a beacon of a thriving nation: healing an island, is healing a people, is healing the lāhui.

Mahalo for the opportunity to **Support HB 307 HD 1**. Aloha 'Āina.

/s/ Kim Ku'ulei Birnie

285 Hāmākua Drive, Kailua 96734

Phone: (808) 383-1651

E-mail: [kkbirnie@gmail.com](mailto:kkbirnie@gmail.com)

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:34:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rosanna 'Anolani Alegado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,  
House Committee of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Rosie 'Anolani Alegado  
46-543 Halemanu St., Kaneohe HI 96744  
(808) 824-0929  
rosie.alegado@gmail.com

Date: February 5

Subject: Support for the Creation of a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate

Dear Honorable Members of the House Committee of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair Tarnas and Vice Chair Poepoe,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kahoolawe. This initiative marks a significant moment in history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kahoolawe by the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island's restoration and cultural revitalization.

Kaho'olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.

This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho'olawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The creation of a Kahoolawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.

In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kahoolawe's healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Rosie Alegado

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:42:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lorraine Waianuhea	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing in strong support of HB 307 which would create a commemorative license plate to recognize the island of Kaho‘olawe and all of the aloha ‘āina who fought courageously to save it from bombing by the U.S. military. The license plate would help generate additional public awareness about the history and ongoing restoration of Kaho‘olawe, as well as raise funds to continue that vital work.

Please pass HB 307.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony,

Lorraine Waianuhea

Honolulu, Hawai‘i

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:14:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I full SUPPORT HB307 that establishes a commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho'olawe. I think it's a wonderful way to bring visibility to and honor the work of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, as well as bring awareness to the general public of the island of Kahoolawe. I think it is a great way to support the ongoing efforts of restoration on such as special and sacred island.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Keala Fung

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:10:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelvin Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Kaho'olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.

This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kahoolawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The creation of a Kaho'olawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.

In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kaho'olawe's healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB307

Kelvin Ho

PO Box 769

Lawai Hi 96765

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:05:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**I am writing in strong support of establishing a special, commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho’olawe, proposed in Senate Bill 143 / House Bill 307. This initiative emerges as the community celebrates 50 years of aloha ‘āina efforts that protected the island from irreversible damage from use as a bomb target practice. This marks a significant moment in the history of our State and Native Hawaiian communities. It commemorates the efforts by the Protect Kaho’olawe Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island’s restoration and cultural revitalization.**

**Kaho’olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.**

**This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho’olawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The creation of a Kaho’olawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.**

**In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kaho’olawe’s healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:14:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carli Gardner-Lomont	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB307 and the creation of a special license plate for Kaho‘olawe.

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:48:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anela Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Senate Committee of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I strongly support HB 307, which authorizes the issuance of special number plates to recognize the island of Kaho‘olawe. Kaho‘olawe is a cultural treasure and it is important to recognize and raise awareness of the island’s history, struggle, and rehabilitation. The endorsement of this special license plate may aid in advancing the State of Hawai‘i’s mission, through the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission, of, “Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa,” reinvigorating and restoring life and integrity to Kanaloa-Kaho‘olawe -- the island and it’s surrounding marine, environmental, and cultural resources. Mahalo nui for your consideration and effort.

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:16:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tiffany Ing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB307 as it memorializes the history of the illegal slaughter of Kaho‘olawe by the US military, the fight of Kanaka to regain the island, and the on-going determination of indigenous peoples in Hawai‘i and around the world to self-determination and aloha ‘aina.

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:54:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linnea Heu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the House Committee for Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am submitting testimony in support of HB307 HD1. When I was younger, my first access to Kaho'olawe played a pivotal role in my growth both as a young woman and Kanaka 'Ōiwi. I hope that this bill will be an additional avenue for people of Hawai'i to connect with and support the ongoing restoration of this special place. Furthermore, this is a chance to make a tangible commitment to the healing of Kaho'olawe and our people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Linnea Heu

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:49:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayla Spotkaeff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Dear Honorable Members,**

**I am writing in strong support of House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho’olawe. This initiative marks a significant moment in history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kaho’olawe by the Protect Kaho’olawe Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island’s restoration and cultural revitalization.**

**Kaho’olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.**

**This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho’olawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The creation of a Kaho’olawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.**

**In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kaho’olawe’s healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Aloha,**  
Shayla Spotkaeff

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:51:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micah Mizukami	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB 307 – Creating a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate**

**To: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee.**

**From: Micah Mizukami, hisa.mizukami@gmail.com**

**Date: February 5, 2025**

**Subject: Support for HB307 Creation of a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate**

**Dear Honorable Members,**

**I am writing in strong support of House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho’olawe. This initiative marks a significant moment in history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kaho’olawe by the Protect Kaho’olawe Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island’s restoration and cultural revitalization.**

**Born and raised on Kaua’i, I had the privilege to experience Kaho’olawe on two occasions. Once with the Hawai’i Youth Conservation Corps in 2008 and then again 15 years later with the Protect Kaho’olawe ‘Ohana in 2023. Both were transformational and really strengthened my understanding of the importance of Kaho’olawe and Aloha ‘Āina work.**

**Kaho’olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.**

**This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho’olawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The**

**creation of a Kaho'olawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.**

**In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kaho'olawe's healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Aloha,  
Micah Mizukami**

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:50:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pamela Omidyar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**To: Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,  
House Committee of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**

**From: Pam Omidyar**

**3650 Waialae Avenue**

**Suite 400**

**Honolulu HI 96816**

**pam@omidyar.com**

**Date: February 5 2025**

**Subject: Support for the Creation of a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate**

**Dear Honorable Members of the House Committee of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair Tarnas and Vice Chair Poepoe,**

**I am writing in full support of House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kahoolawe. The work of PKO and many others over the last 50 years should be recognized and continue. Thank you - pam**

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:04:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dr. Kaliko Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to the esteemed committee members:

I am writing in complete support of HB307 seeking to establish a special number plate that will benefit the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana.

Mahalo nui for your service.

Dr. Kaliko Baker.

**HB-307-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:59:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB 307 – Creating a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate**

**To: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee.**

**From: Mahealani Lum, mahe.lum@gmail.com**

**Date: February 5, 2025**

**Subject: Support for HB307 Creation of a Kahoolawe Commemorative License Plate**

**Dear Honorable Members,**

**I am writing in strong support of House Bill 307, which seeks to establish a special commemorative license plate for the island of Kaho‘olawe. This initiative marks a significant moment in history, as it celebrates 50 years since the first landings on Kaho‘olawe by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO), a group that has long fought for the island’s restoration and cultural revitalization.**

**Kaho‘olawe holds immense cultural, historical, and spiritual significance to the Native Hawaiian community, and this commemorative license plate will not only honor the efforts and sacrifices made by the PKO but also bring greater awareness to the island's ongoing restoration process. The proceeds from the sale of these plates will directly benefit the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, further supporting the important work they do in safeguarding and preserving the island for future generations.**

**This bill offers a unique opportunity to connect the broader community with the mission of Kaho‘olawe's cultural and environmental recovery. It also serves as a reminder of the strength of collective action and the importance of preserving our sacred lands. The creation of a Kaho‘olawe license plate is a fitting tribute to the decades-long efforts of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana and all those who have dedicated themselves to this cause.**

**In celebration of 50 years since the first landings, this license plate will provide a lasting legacy of commitment to Kaho‘olawe’s healing and stewardship, and I urge you to support this important bill.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Aloha,  
Mahealani Lum**