

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
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Testimony of
DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, April 2, 2025
10:01 AM

Via Videoconference, State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 86, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill 86, House Draft 2, proposes to appropriate moneys to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent Makai Watch Coordinator position. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Makai Watch Coordinator works with existing and prospective Makai Watch communities throughout the state to train and inform them on rules and regulations relating to marine activities. Additionally, the Makai Watch Coordinator trains these communities on how to document and report violations as well as acting as a liaison between communities and the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE). The Makai Watch Coordinator is a very important position within DOCARE as the Makai Watch Program expands DOCARE's enforcement footprint and gives communities an opportunity to engage with the Department concerning their valued ocean resources.

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



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 86 HD2
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Makai Watch; Marine Resources; Appropriations

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Capitol

April 2, 2025

10:01 A.M.

Conference Room 211

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the Committee:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) submits this testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB 86 HD2**. As originally drafted, this bill appropriates monies to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for the establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent Makai Watch Coordinator position. OHA supports sufficient appropriations to support at least one full-time coordinator for this important program.

Makai Watch is a collaborative, statewide program that engages citizens and non-profits in the management of marine resources, promotes compliance with DLNR rules protecting and governing natural resource use, and promotes community-based education and monitoring of resources. The Makai Watch program engages people who are directly impacted or live closest to the natural and cultural resources and are thus in the best position to assist in understanding the overall landscape and report bad actors. This program is a modern reflection of the ahupua'a management system led by konohiki (caretakers) and aha councils (place-based subject matter experts).

Funding a full-time coordinator is a smart investment to ensure the continued success of the Makai Watch program. This program not only recognizes and empowers community co-management of resources but also saves DLNR money by having citizens serve as the eyes and ears of the department. OHA recognizes the value and importance of community-based stewardship and management which, in practice, is aligned with Native Hawaiian traditional and customary resource management practices. By funding a full-time coordinator, this measure would enable the Makai Watch to better leverage state resources in support of this successful public-private partnership to protect Hawai'i's precious natural and cultural resources.

Mahalo loa for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT of HB86 HD2**, we urge the Committee to **pass** and fund this measure.

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 6:01:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Teef and Ocean Coalition asks the Committee to please SUPPORT funding of this critical program!

Mahalo!

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting HB86 HD2, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.
Committee on Water and Land
April 2, 2025 at 10:01 am
Conference Room 211 and via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra **supports** HB86 HD2, which appropriates moneys to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for the establishment of full-time equivalent permanent Makai Watch Coordinator positions.

TNC has been working in collaboration with makai communities and local partners for 25 years to protect Hawaii's natural resources. Grounded by science and local and indigenous knowledge, TNC supports prioritizing education and outreach about the management of marine resources. Since its establishment in early 2000's, the Makai Watch Program has worked to enhance management of Hawaii's makai resources, engaging local stewards to raise community awareness and monitor human use and biological conditions along our nearshore environments.

There are currently over 20 Makai Watch communities directly involved with DLNR Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) in the management and protection of marine resources, of which TNC works with eight. These positions need permanent, dedicated state funding to continue increasing partnerships, empowering communities, and conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB86 HD2.

Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.

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Hawai'i Ocean Legislative Task Force



April 2, 2025

Hawai'i State Legislature
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB86 HD2, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

The Ocean Legislative Task Force strongly supports HB86 HD2, relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, which takes an important step toward strengthening the Makai Watch program and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Hawai'i's nearshore marine resources. As a coalition of over 100 individuals from diverse organizations and communities, we recognize the critical role Makai Watch plays in promoting collaborative stewardship, enhancing coastal resilience, and protecting vital marine ecosystems.

Establishing a permanent Makai Watch Coordinator position within the Department of Land and Natural Resources would provide a valuable foundation for streamlining program efforts. By ensuring that this position remains actively engaged with community stakeholders and agency partners, there will be greater access to resources and support necessary to manage nearshore marine areas effectively. This initiative will also foster stronger partnerships, reinforcing the shared responsibility of caring for Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources.

This serves as more than a community-driven initiative; it is a model of co-management that bridges traditional knowledge with modern conservation strategies. Investing in the program not only strengthens marine resource management but also builds capacity for future generations to continue this stewardship. This measure represents an opportunity to expand public engagement in resource protection while empowering local communities with the tools and collaboration needed to sustain these efforts over time.

We deeply appreciate this committee's commitment to advancing solutions that empower communities while protecting Hawai'i's ocean resources. For these reasons, we respectfully urge the passage of this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

The Ocean Legislative Task Force advocates for measures that promote funding for natural resource protection and restoration, ocean resources, coral reefs, subsistence fishing, and coastal resilience, and other priorities.



March 31, 2025

To: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB86 HD2**: Relating to The Department of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

We write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB86 HD2** which will appropriate moneys to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the establishment of at least one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent Statewide Makai Watch Coordinator position.

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the Department of Land and Natural Resources's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DLNR/DOCARE) in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. Created in the early 2000's, the Makai Watch approach is based on the idea that people who utilize, serve, and live closest to our natural and cultural resources are in the best position to help protect them. There are currently over 20 Makai Watch communities across the state collectively contributing to ensuring nearshore marine abundance now, and for future generations.

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea (MPW), the organization that stewards the Pūpūkea Marine Life Conservation District, became O'ahu's first Makai Watch community in 2005. In partnership with DLNR/DOCARE, and in collaboration with the Statewide Makai Watch Coordinator, MPW has trained hundreds of volunteers who have conducted thousands of educational interventions and effectively reported hundreds of in-progress violations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

Mahalo for your **SUPPORT** of **HB86 HD2** to establish a full-time, permanent Statewide Makai Watch Coordinator position.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,
Jenny Yagodich

Jenny Yagodich

Director of Educational Programs &
Makai Watch Coordinator

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea
Post Office Box 188
Hale'iwa, HI 96712

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Director of Educational Programs &
Makai Watch Coordinator*

Federal Nonprofit Organization
501(c)(3) FEIN 27-0855937
www.pupukeawaimea.org
info@pupukeawaimea.org

He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve

Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, Hawai'i

March 31, 2025

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

My name is Casey Ching, and I serve as the Kāne'ohē to Kualoa Makai Watch Community Coordinator as part of my role with the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB86 HD2, which provides funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for the establishment of permanent full-time Makai Watch Coordinator positions.

In 2022, the State of Hawai'i Makai Watch program partnered with local communities near Kāne'ohē Bay and the He'eia NERR to launch Kāne'ohē to Kualoa Makai Watch, strengthening collaboration between community stewards and DLNR's Divisions of Boating and Ocean Recreation, Conservation and Resources Enforcement, and Aquatic Resources. This partnership has been instrumental in addressing the increasing threats to Kāne'ohē Bay's marine resources. Like many Makai Watch communities across the state, we have seen firsthand how this program empowers local communities to actively engage in marine conservation efforts.

Despite its 20-year history of success and its proven value to many communities across Hawai'i, the Makai Watch program remains reliant solely on grant funding. Without permanent, dedicated positions, the program's reach will remain limited, and the core functions of Makai Watch will be difficult to maintain as new communities become part of the network.

Funding dedicated to Makai Watch Coordinator positions will provide necessary stability to support community-led efforts, enhance partnerships, and promote growth of the program, ultimately leading to increased community-based resource management and strengthened conservation efforts. Furthermore, funding permanent Makai Watch Coordinator positions ensures that communities can continue to play an active role in protecting Hawai'i's marine resources for present and future generations through the Makai Watch program.

I strongly urge the committee to pass HB86 HD2 to help sustain this vital program.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Casey Ching". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a rectangular area that appears to be a scan of a stamp or a signature strip.

Casey Ching

Kāne'ohē to Kualoa Makai Watch Community Coordinator

Training and Engagement Coordinator, He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: HB86 HD2

April 2nd, 2025 at 10:02am; Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the committees,

HAPA is testifying in strong support of HB86 HD2 which proposed to appropriate money to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the establishment of full-time equivalent permanent Makai Watch Coordinator positions.

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the Department of Land and Natural Resources's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DLNR/DOCARE) in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. Created in the early 2000's, the Makai Watch approach is based on the idea that people who utilize, serve, and live closest to our natural and cultural resources are in the best position to help protect them. There are currently over 20 Makai Watch communities across the state collectively contributing to ensuring nearshore marine abundance now, and for future generations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

Given the uncertainty of federal funds to support this program it is even more important that the state provide resources to support a program that has been proven effective at protecting and managing marine resources. The Makai Watch Program provides important opportunities for community based resource stewardship of nearshore marine resources and fisheries for abundance.

Please support HB86 HD 2. 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



Testimony Before The
Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
IN SUPPORT OF HB86 HD2
April 2, 2025, 10:01 a.m., Room 211 & Via Videoconference

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 HB86 HD2 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona.

This bill would appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to secure state funding for full-time permanent Makai Watch Coordinator positions. We greatly appreciate the amendments made in the HD2 version by the House Committee on Finance to cover potentially more than one full-time state-funded position for this program, which currently houses three coordinator positions funded by private and federal dollars.

The state's [Makai Watch Program](#) was formed in the early 2000s as a collaborative statewide program where community members and groups can partner with DLNR's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE), Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), and Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) to help monitor, educate, and promote our state nearshore fishery laws and rules. The program has grown significantly since its inception, now involving collaborations with 21 different communities on five of the main Hawaiian Islands. **For over twenty years now, the Makai Watch Program has served to better enable DOCARE, DAR, and DOBOR to more effectively manage the state's nearshore fisheries, which has proven to be far too great a task for one state agency alone to effectively manage without strong community support and partnerships.**

KUA was surprised to learn that funding for the state's Makai Watch Program, including the main Coordinator position and two new island-based positions, has to-date received no dedicated state funding, supported only by various grants and federal funding. **Individual community groups also need to apply for their own grant funding to participate in this program – a big barrier to effectively gaining more community support and stability to continue participation.** Indeed, it is a wonder that this program has continued to grow considering this lack of funding – but we envision *how much more it could grow* with dedicated state funding. The main Coordinator position was funded in 2019 as part of DOCARE's budget, Program I.D. LNR405/HA, [HB2 CD1, Page 646 \(2019\)](#) (see also [SB923 SD1](#), Item 9, LNR405/HA). Unfortunately, after it was funded, the COVID-19 pandemic began and then a state hiring freeze was instituted. Thus, the funding and position lapsed without ever being filled.

Many of the communities in our KUA networks are part of the Makai Watch Program, which serves as a great example of successful community partnerships with the state, building trust and relationships, while also better enabling awareness of and compliance with established state rules. Many others we talked to were unaware that the state provided no dedicated funding for this program, especially given its widespread recognition, support, and community participation. With the current political climate of federal funding in a constant state of flux, it is evermore important to ensure our state is caring for its own regardless. Dedicating state funding for our well-established Makai Watch Program is a good and reasonable place to start.

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 and “that which feeds” us all, requires long-term investment through a shared vision of achieving ‘āina momona (abundance) once again.** To get there requires dedicating more resources for mālama ‘āina (caring for our environment), including through this bill to finally secure state funding for the well-established and successful Makai Watch Program. Our decisions today will continue to shape the future that our keiki's keiki's keiki will one day inherit – we hope for a future of shared and harmonious abundance, and hope you do, too.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in support. Please **PASS** HB86 HD2.

Aloha ‘Āina Momona no Nā Kau ā Kau.

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 9:12:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as co chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i we are in support of HB86 HD2.

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources . This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment. This is a win win for all of our communities.

Green Party of Hawai'i, asks that you support HB86 HD2.
Mahalo,

Susan RobertEmery
Green Party Hawai'i
Paauilo



Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

*Post Office Box 1801, Kealahou, Hawaii, HI 96750 &
Post Office Box 790637, Paia, Maui, HI 96779*

Celebrating 28+ years of protecting Hawaii's native wildlife through
research, education and conservation.

31 March 2025

Re: Strong Support for House Bill 86 HD2

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and fellow Senators of the Committee on Ways and Means,

We are in strong support for House Bill 86 HD2, which, "appropriates moneys to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the establishment of full-time equivalent permanent Makai Watch Coordinator positions".

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund (HWF) is a small nonprofit organization that has been working to conserve native species in Hawai'i since 1996. During that time, we have been actively involved in research, education, restoration and advocacy projects related to the protection of coastal and nearshore ecosystems around the pae 'āina. HWF was founded by two former National Marine Fisheries scientists, and we have been involved in community-based fisheries management efforts since 2003 at the invitation of the former Community Conservation Network (CCN), now Kua'āina Ulu Auamo (KUA) to join the E Alu Pū network. We are also co-founders of the original Makai Watch program (another community-based marine management program), together with CCN, The Nature Conservancy, DOCARE and the communities of Miloli'i, 'Āhihi-Kīna'u Natural Area Reserve, and Honolua Bay.

We support regulations that facilitate local communities, concerned fishermen, and the DLNR to improve current marine resource conditions on an 'Ahupua'a or Moku scale. Since traditionally managed fishery zones where the community is dedicated and involved have standing stocks of reef fishes equal to that in fully protected marine reserves¹, they should be fully supported for

¹ Poepoe, K. K., P. K. Bartram, and A.M. Friedlander. "The use of traditional knowledge in the contemporary management of a Hawaiian community's marine resources." *Fishers' knowledge in fisheries science and management* (2007): 119-143. (Avail for download here: [LINK](#))

community co-management initiatives. We share the spirit embodied in the E Alu Pū Resolution No. 1-2013 regarding CBSFA designations, rules and the work of many communities seeking to mālama their place through co-management approaches.

We support communities that wish to continue to develop subsistence fishery management plans and zones, including Miloli'i and Ho'okena on the island of Hawai'i, Ha'ena on Kaua'i, Kīpahulu on Maui, Mo'omomi on Moloka'i, and will continue to support other moku or 'Ahupua'a that wish to do the same.

Please support the statewide and community-based subsistence fishing area initiative. We urge you to support this bill (HB86 HD2) when it comes to your committee later this week. Mahalo for your time, consideration, and support of Hawaii's native wildlife / habitats, cultural landscape and community connectivity, and thank you for considering this testimony. Should you have any questions, please contact me at megan@wildhawaii.org.

Sincerely,



Megan Lamson Leatherman, M. Sc.

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, President and Hawai'i Program Director

megan@wildhawaii.org | (c) 808-217-5777 | (w) 808-769-7629 (HWF Marine Debris Hotline)



Hannah J. Bernard

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, Executive Director and Co-founder

hannah@wildhawaii.org | (c) 808-280-8124



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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

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. **HFU supports HB86.**

Healthy marine ecosystems and sustainable land management are deeply interconnected. **Coastal agriculture, aquaculture, and traditional farming practices depend on resilient ecosystems that withstand environmental degradation.**

The **Makai Watch Program is essential** for protecting nearshore resources, ensuring food security, and supporting community-driven environmental stewardship—all priorities aligned with HFU's mission.

For over two decades, **the program has operated without dedicated state funding**, relying on inconsistent federal grants and nonprofit contributions. This unstable funding model threatens its continuity.

HB86 presents a critical opportunity to secure the program's future by permanently funding the Coordinator position within DLNR's annual budget. Establishing this role as a recurring budget line item will prevent funding lapses—such as those caused by the COVID-19 hiring freeze and grant uncertainties—while enabling DLNR to expand enforcement efforts without relying on temporary funding. Institutionalizing this position also reaffirms the state's commitment to community-based resource management, strengthening partnerships between local stewards and DOCARE.

Funding the Makai Watch Coordinator as a permanent position is a cost-effective investment in resource conservation, enforcement efficiency, and Hawaii's blue economy. We urge the Legislature to not only pass HB86 but also **ensure this position is permanently funded within DLNR's base budget**, protecting it from future financial uncertainties.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawaii Farmers Union

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 10:49:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Makai Watch program will provide a means to more effectively protect our nearshore marine environment. I support HB86.

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 4:53:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members.

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 11:08:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Chair and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 5:46:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

In a time where the federal Supreme Court has ruled that businesses and people can dump toxic waste in our water ways and put so many people and animals that rely on clean water to survive. The state should be supporting measures like this one that help protect our natural resources.

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 3:22:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support HB86 HD2, which will appropriate moneys to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the establishment of full-time equivalent permanent Makai Watch Coordinator positions.

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

Thank you

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 2:13:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davianna McGregor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB86 HD2, WAM Hearing Wednesday 4/2/2025 10:01am

Aloha pumehana Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

I am Davianna Pomaikai McGregor from the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, and I strongly support HB86 HD2 to provide much-needed and long overdue state funds for the well-established state Makai Watch Program, starting with coordinator positions.

The state’s Makai Watch Program is a prime example of the value and success of governmental partnerships with Native Hawaiian and local communities to best manage and protect our biocultural resources. Although the program has been around for over twenty years and with 21 different communities across Hawai‘i participating, it is run using only private grants and federal funds, no state dollars. Given the widespread success of the program to best protect our nearshore environments and animals, and with so many federal funding sources in limbo, it makes sense that our state begin dedicating funds to support this program.

Please PASS HB86 HD2!

‘O ke aloha nō,

Davianna Pomaikai McGregor

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 6:08:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pam Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 11:35:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 10:13:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

Please support this legislation.

Shay Chan Hodges

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 5:02:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB86 HD2-The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.Eliel,96746

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 3:25:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support!

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 2:54:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 8:17:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in **strong support** of HB86 HD2, which seeks to appropriate funds for the establishment of full-time, permanent Makai Watch Coordinator positions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a critical, community-driven initiative that fosters collaboration between local residents, DLNR, and DOCARE to **protect and manage our nearshore marine resources**. Through education and compliance efforts, Makai Watch volunteers help ensure that the rules designed to safeguard our ocean ecosystems are understood and followed.

This bill is essential because having **dedicated, full-time coordinators** will provide the necessary structure, consistency, and leadership to maximize the program's effectiveness. By increasing awareness and reducing illegal activities like poaching, the program has already demonstrated **tangible benefits** for Hawai'i's marine environment. However, without stable support and dedicated personnel, the full potential of Makai Watch cannot be realized.

Investing in these positions is an investment in the **long-term health of our oceans, fisheries, and coastal communities**. I urge you to pass HB86 HD2 and ensure that this invaluable program receives the resources it needs to thrive.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Ezgi Green

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 10:50:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Otsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kiana Otsuka, and I am an O‘ahu resident writing in **STRONG support of HB86 HD2**, which appropriates moneys to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the establishment of full-time equivalent permanent Makai Watch Coordinator positions.

The Hawai‘i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill.

Mahalo,

Kiana Otsuka

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 8:37:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Crawford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB86 HD2 to provide much-needed state funds for the well-established state Makai Watch Program, starting with coordinator positions.

The state's Makai Watch Program is a prime example of the value and success of governmental partnerships with Native Hawaiian and local communities to best manage and protect our biocultural resources. Although the program has been around for over twenty years and with 21 different communities across Hawai'i participating, it is run using only private grants and federal funds, no state dollars. Given the widespread success of the program to best protect our nearshore environments and animals, and with so many federal funding sources in limbo, it makes sense that our state begin dedicating funds to support this program.

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 10:43:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair(s) and Committee Members,

I strongly support HB86 HD2, the Makai Watch bill. I feel it is important to appropriate funds to DLNR for the establishment of a Makai Watch coordinator position(s).

Mahalo,

Greg Kahn



March 30, 2025

To: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Subject: **HB86 HD2**, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha,

Please pass HB86 HD2, which will appropriate moneys to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the establishment of full-time equivalent permanent Makai Watch coordinator positions.

The beautiful State of Hawai'i has infamous beaches, mountain ranges and is home to amazing species found nowhere else. These natural resources and beings must be protected and advocated for. The Makai Watch coordinators have been tremendous in doing so by protecting the natural landscapes and educating others who enjoy their presence/existence as well. These positions are critical in teaching beach goers the do's and don'ts when it comes to Hawai'i's beaches, and therefore helps ensure the unique yet priceless biodiversity. Biodiversity is important to maintain for a multitude of reasons, but the most important include preservation of ecosystem services and environmental stability which in turn stabilizes our food system and local economy.

Another reason to pass this bill is the creation of full-time permanent positions. By doing so, this will help keep Hawaiians in Hawai'i and employ those who know the beaches the best, a win-win situation.

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

In 2025, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



**HAWAI'I
FOOD+
POLICY**

Honolulu, HI 96813
food@purplemaia.org

I respectfully urge you to pass HB86 HD2 so that we can continue to ensure the protection of our marine environments.

Mahalo,
Jeanette Burdick & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

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

In 2025, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 5:49:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 8:55:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Tieva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my support of HB86 HD2 the Hawai'i Makai Watch Program. As you know, this program is a statewide initiative where communities collaborate and work directly with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources.

Education that results in the compliance of those rules and regulations are an essential component for success.

The end result is not only an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations that protect our nearshore marine resources but a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching.

Please support!

Mahalo!

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 2:07:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

great bill - communitis are front line in the awareness of rules and issues pertaining to nearshore marine resoureces - cummmunity folks are willing and qualified to contribute to the protection ..

mahalo

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 10:51:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha House members,

I strongly support HB86 HD2.

On the North Shore of Kaua'i the Makai Watch program has been extremely successful. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

It is essential for the health of our marine habitats.

Mahalo,

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai , Kaua'i. 96754

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 4:28:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 11:28:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of this bill HB86. I believe allocating money to hire people for full-time positions for Makai Watch Coordinator positions is a good idea. Oversight of our marine life, ocean, and shoreline is important for all of us and these folks who do so deserve to be properly compensated for their hard work. Mahalo.

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 11:33:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Datta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB86 to provide vital funds for the state's well-established Makai Watch Program.

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 11:44:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TK McKenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support and approve this measure to ensure the maka'ainana have a voice in the DLNR and DO ARE offices to ensure the protection of our near shore marine resources. Mahalo nui loa!

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 12:01:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Aloha my name is Keala from Honolulu and I am writing in strong support of HB86. As a coastal fisher-person who relies on resources in the ocean to feed myself and my family, the health and well-being of our marine environment and resources is of utmost importance to me.

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

Please SUPPORT HB86 HD2. Mahalo for your time,

Keala Fung, Honolulu

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 12:05:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

For your support of HB86.

Mahalo for all you do,

Ann V Saffery

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 12:58:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Senator Moriwaki and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Please support HB 86 HD 2 which, to my understanding, would allow for a collaboration of communities with DLNR in the management of near shore marine resources. This collaboration should increase awareness about protecting marine resources.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

HB-86-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 5:10:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/2/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

The Hawai'i Makai Watch Program is a collaborative, statewide initiative where communities become directly involved with the DLNR and DOCARE in the management and protection of nearshore marine resources through promoting education and compliance to rules and regulations. This collaborative approach has resulted in an increase of awareness about the rules and regulations protecting our marine resources and a decrease in both intentional and unintentional poaching. This has a direct, positive impact on the nearshore marine environment.

Na,

Leo Nahe, Pearl City, 96782