



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB410
Relating to the Budget of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

January 31, 2025

2:00 p.m.

Room 325

Aloha e Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

Mahalo for setting HB410, which is part of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs's (OHA's) 2025 Legislative Package, for public hearing. OHA submits this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB410**, Relating to the Budget of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is the constitutionally established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians. Haw. Const. Art. XII § 5. Among its statutory duties, OHA is required to (1) serve as principal public agency in the State of Hawai'i responsible for the performance, development and coordination of programs and activities relating to native Hawaiians and Hawaiians; (2) assess the policies and practices of other agencies impacting native Hawaiians and Hawaiians; and (3) conduct advocacy efforts for native Hawaiians and Hawaiians. Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 10-3.

In fulfillment of these duties, OHA is requesting a \$1,858,454 increase in FY26 and \$1,996,208 increase in FY27 in general fund appropriations (reflected in the FY26 and FY27 biennium budget totals of \$4.8M and \$4.9M).

The requested appropriation increases are necessary to adjust for the cost of inflation since 2020 when OHA began implementing its strategic plan [Mana I Maui Ola](#) and to fund 13 new staff positions to accelerate implementation of the plan. The 13-member team will evaluate existing programs and develop new programs and tactics to advance 'oiwi well-being and reduce disparities in health, housing, education and economic development, as set forth in the strategic plan. The team will also partner with state and county agencies to leverage their resources, and ensure effective delivery of services to Native Hawaiian communities across providers through data sharing, program design, and program evaluation. To ensure transparency for elected officials and the public, staff will post dashboard progress reports on our progress in reducing disparities.

OHA is in the process of initiating bold new initiatives to make measurable progress in advancing Native Hawaiian well-being over the remaining 10 years of its strategic plan. We look forward to partnering with our beneficiaries, the legislature, other Native Hawaiian Organizations and state agencies, and private sector partners as we advance this mission.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies
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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

For hearing Friday, January 31, 2025

Re: HB 410 RELATING TO THE BUDGET OF THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

Appropriates moneys to fund the operating expenses of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for the fiscal biennium beginning on 7/1/2025, and ending on 6/30/2027.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

This bill appropriates moneys to fund the operating expenses of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for the fiscal biennium beginning on 7/1/2025, and ending on 6/30/2027.

According to OHA's Annual Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, on page 15, OHA's total assets were \$971 Million. By now, half a year later, that figure is likely more than A BILLION DOLLARS. No other branch of the State government is allowed to carry forward such a huge amount. Yet here comes OHA, demanding money for its operating expenses like a beggar holding out his tin cup.

Hawai'i Free Press on Friday June 24, 2025 reported some information from OHA's check register which it was able to obtain only after demanding access through the Freedom of Information Act. OHA's payroll was \$15.9 Million for its bloated bureaucracy, which was 40.7% of its spending. Any charity spending such a large percentage on payroll would be regarded as a scam.

Every year OHA's bills demanding money try to distinguish between general funds and trust funds. That's a distinction without a difference. Money is fungible. All these funds belong to the State of Hawai'i, whether the money is kept in the right trouser pocket or the left pocket.

Please vote NO on this bill. Give the money back to Hawai'i's taxpayers, or spend it to help the thousands of truly needy people of all races who are citizens of Hawai'i.



Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 597

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

Nativehawaiianchamberofcommerce.org nhccoahu@gmail.com

2024-2025 Directors

Kelea Levy, President
VP
Brandon Souza, Second VP, Secretary
Napali Woode, Treasurer
Mike Rawlins, Past President
Dr. H.K. Blaisdell-Brennan
Winfred Cameron
Cedric Duarte
Logan Frietas
Chasen Kim
Max Mukai
Makalika Naholowa'a
Dr. Angela Pratt
Andrew Rosen, Executive Director

January 30, 2025

Re: Testimony in Support of HB410

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce (NHCC) to express strong support for HB410, which provides critical funding to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to advance 'Ōiwi wellbeing in health, housing, education, and economic development.

For many of our NHCC members, OHA is not just a funding source, it is a partner in their success. This funding directly supports Native Hawaiian businesses that provide goods and services aligned with OHA's mission to uplift the lāhui. Investments in OHA ultimately circulate through our community, creating economic opportunities and strengthening Native Hawaiian enterprises that drive long-term prosperity.

Additionally, this bill ensures greater transparency and collaboration between OHA and government service providers, maximizing the impact of state funding and improving outcomes for Native Hawaiians.

Until OHA receives its full pro rata share of Public Land Trust revenues, legislative appropriations remain necessary to fill operational gaps and sustain these essential programs.

NHCC looks forward to continued collaboration with OHA and remains committed to gathering data on how these appropriations benefit our members. We urge your support for HB410 to advance economic equity and ensure that Native Hawaiian businesses and communities thrive.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mālama pono,

Andrew Rosen
Executive Director
Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce
P: 808.208.5816
www.nativehawaiianchamberofcommerce.org



**Ko'olauloa
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB**

**P.O. Box 532
Hau'ula, Hawaii 96717**

January 30, 2025

**Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs**

WE SUPPORT HB410 for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services:

The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

Transparency and Synergy:

This is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars to ensure collaboration between and among government entities that serve Native Hawaiians and share common goals. Partnerships with other state and county agencies and increasing transparency around OHA's work through an online dashboard for our Lahui.

As OHA beneficiaries and voters, we are happy to see the innovative approach that OHA's leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Raynae M. Fonoimoana

Raynae M. Fonoimoana

Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club

President

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:04:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johne Constance Colahan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I accept HB410

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:06:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This OHA proposal deserves your full support. Native Hawaiian families need support and prioritizing this bill furthers these concerns.

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:14:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen T Hazam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please OPPOSE HB410

OHA has demonstrated poor fiduciary responsibility for Native Hawaiians. There still seems to be no commitment to a policy of transparency. No additional funds should be allocated to OHA until they have proven they are worthy of our trust.

Please OPPOSE HB410

Respectfully,

01-29-2025

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing to express my support for HB410 for the following reasons:

Improved Services: This bill aims to increase funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), allowing them to hire new staff and better implement their long-term strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, which focuses on enhancing the well-being of Native Hawaiians. Historically, the state has not provided OHA with the full funding it is entitled to by law, so these additional funds are necessary to help OHA fulfill its important mission.

Collaborative Efforts and Transparency: OHA plans to use this funding to create staff positions that will foster partnerships with state and county agencies. They also want to make their work more transparent by launching an online dashboard to share their efforts and progress. This is a smart way to use taxpayer money to ensure that different government organizations work together effectively for the benefit of Native Hawaiians.

As someone who benefits from OHA's services and a voter, I appreciate the innovative direction that OHA's leadership is taking.

Thank you for considering my support for this important measure.

Mālama,
Millie Ho

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:29:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sasha Kahele-Manners	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I **SUPPORT HB410** for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

Transparency and Synergy: OHA seeks to fund staff positions focused on leveraging partnerships with other state and county agencies and increasing transparency around OHA’s work through an online dashboard. This is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars to ensure collaboration between and among government entities that serve Native Hawaiians and share common goals.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I am happy to see the innovative approach that OHA’s leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sasha Kahele-Manners

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:33:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmaline Padeken	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I **SUPPORT HB410** for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

Transparency and Synergy: OHA seeks to fund staff positions focused on leveraging partnerships with other state and county agencies and increasing transparency around OHA’s work through an online dashboard. This is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars to ensure collaboration between and among government entities that serve Native Hawaiians and share common goals.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I am happy to see the innovative approach that OHA’s leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

Emmaline Padeken

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:49:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Kindly request your passage of HB410, relating to the budget of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. As you know, OHA is the lead agency for advocating and for taking actions to improve the welfare of Native Hawaiians, the indigenous people of Hawai‘i. When they are properly and sufficiently funded to enable them to do their work, there will be less reliance on state social services and other government agencies, such as in health and housing since disparities in the treatment of Native Hawaiians will have been addressed and corrected. The requested budget is reasonable and is necessary to proactively accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries and to use innovative approaches to enable its work.

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

Respectively, Leimomi Khan

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:54:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Long	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I support HB410 and kindly ask that you do as well.

Please, fulfill your fiduciary responsibility and pass this crucial legislation so that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs may continue to strive to fully serve its beneficiaries and fulfill its responsibilities.

Mahalo nui loa,

James Long

Naalehu, HI

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:22:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I **SUPPORT HB410** for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

Transparency and Synergy: OHA seeks to fund staff positions focused on leveraging partnerships with other state and county agencies and increasing transparency around OHA's work through an online dashboard. This is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars to ensure collaboration between and among government entities that serve Native Hawaiians and share common goals.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I am happy to see the innovative approach that OHA's leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

Karen Alamida

alamidak001@hawaii.rr.com

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:43:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I **SUPPORT HB410** for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

Transparency and Synergy: OHA seeks to fund staff positions focused on leveraging partnerships with other state and county agencies and increasing transparency around OHA’s work through an online dashboard. This is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars to ensure collaboration between and among government entities that serve Native Hawaiians and share common goals.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I am happy to see the innovative approach that OHA’s leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:37:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB410: Office of Hawaiian Affairs Appropriations Act of 2025

****Hearing Date****: January 31, 2025

****Committee****: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Aloha, Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair and Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on ****HB410: Office of Hawaiian Affairs Appropriations Act of 2025****. While I commend the intent of this bill to provide funding for critical programs supporting Native Hawaiians, I must ****oppose HB410**** due to several concerns regarding the sufficiency of funding, lack of accountability, and the absence of clear implementation plans to ensure these appropriations truly meet the needs of the Native Hawaiian community.

****1. Insufficient Funding for Critical Areas****

The appropriations outlined in HB410 fall short of addressing the scale of the challenges facing Native Hawaiians in key areas:

- ****Affordable Housing and Infrastructure****:

The appropriation of \$600,000-\$625,000 annually for affordable housing is **insufficient** to make a meaningful impact on Hawaii's severe housing crisis. Native Hawaiians are disproportionately represented in the homeless population, and housing costs continue to rise at unsustainable rates. This allocation is a drop in the bucket compared to the actual resources required to address housing shortages and affordability challenges. Without a substantial increase in funding, these efforts are unlikely to yield measurable improvements.

- **Climate Change and Land Preservation**:

The allocation of \$600,000-\$625,000 annually for 'āina protection and climate change adaptation is inadequate given the pressing environmental threats to Native Hawaiian lands and natural resources. Rising sea levels, freshwater scarcity, and development pressures require **far greater investments** to ensure the long-term sustainability and protection of culturally significant lands.

- **Social Services and Legal Assistance**:

The funding for social services (\$515,000 annually) and legal representation (\$700,000 annually) is also insufficient to address the widespread challenges facing Native Hawaiians. Legal disputes involving land rights, quiet title actions, and cultural preservation are often complex and require substantial resources to litigate effectively. These appropriations may not be enough to provide meaningful assistance to all who need it.

2. Lack of Accountability and Oversight

HB410 provides the **OHA Board of Trustees significant flexibility** to transfer funds and positions between programs with minimal oversight. While operational flexibility can be useful, it also raises concerns regarding transparency and the potential for **misallocation of funds**.

- **Insufficient Reporting Requirements**:

The bill requires OHA to report fund transfers to the legislature, but it does not mandate detailed performance evaluations or clear metrics to measure program success. Without robust oversight mechanisms, it is difficult to ensure that these funds will achieve their intended purposes.

- **No Accountability for Outcomes**:

There are no requirements for OHA to demonstrate how these appropriations will lead to measurable improvements for Native Hawaiians. For example, how many affordable housing units will be built? How many beneficiaries will receive financial assistance or legal aid? This lack of accountability undermines confidence in the effective use of taxpayer and trust fund dollars.

3. Unclear Implementation Plans

HB410 lacks detailed implementation plans, making it unclear how the appropriated funds will be used to achieve the bill's stated goals.

- **Affordable Housing**:

The bill does not specify how housing funds will be used—whether for new construction, renovation, or rental assistance. Without a clear plan, there is a risk that these funds will not be effectively utilized to address the housing crisis.

- **Workforce Development**:

While the bill allocates \$470,000-\$495,000 annually for workforce development, it does not outline which industries or job sectors will be prioritized, nor does it specify how success will be measured. This lack of clarity makes it difficult to evaluate whether these funds will lead to meaningful economic opportunities for Native Hawaiians.

- **Educational Programs**:

The bill allocates \$715,000-\$740,000 annually for education but provides no details on how these funds will be distributed. Will they be used for scholarships, tutoring, or STEM programs? Will they prioritize underserved areas? Without these specifics, there is a risk that the funds may not reach those who need them most.

4. Over-Reliance on Trust Funds

HB410 relies heavily on trust funds as a means of financing programs. While trust funds are an important resource, over-reliance on these funds could jeopardize the long-term financial stability of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Trust funds are **finite resources**, and repeated withdrawals without clear evidence of program success could deplete these funds, leaving fewer resources for future generations.

****5. Insufficient Community Input****

It is unclear whether Native Hawaiian communities were adequately consulted in the drafting of this bill. The appropriations outlined in HB410 may not fully reflect the actual needs and priorities of the community. For example:

- Were Native Hawaiians consulted about the specific funding allocations for housing, education, and workforce development?
- Are these allocations aligned with community-identified priorities, or were they determined administratively without sufficient engagement?

Without meaningful community input, there is a risk that these appropriations may not address the most pressing issues facing Native Hawaiians.

****Recommendations****

While I oppose HB410 in its current form, I believe it can be improved to better serve Native Hawaiians. I respectfully recommend the following amendments:

1. ****Increase Funding for Critical Areas****:

- Allocate greater resources for affordable housing, climate change adaptation, and legal services to ensure these programs can achieve meaningful results.

2. ****Establish Clear Implementation Plans****:

- Require OHA to provide detailed plans for how funds will be used, along with specific goals and measurable outcomes for each program.

3. ****Strengthen Oversight and Accountability****:

- Mandate annual performance evaluations and public reporting on the effectiveness of funded programs.

4. ****Incorporate Community Input****:

- Require OHA to engage with Native Hawaiian communities to ensure that appropriations align with their needs and priorities.

5. ****Limit Reliance on Trust Funds****:

- Explore alternative funding sources to reduce the financial burden on trust funds and ensure their sustainability for future generations.

****Conclusion****

While HB410 aims to address critical issues facing Native Hawaiians, it falls short in its current form. Insufficient funding, lack of accountability, and unclear implementation plans raise significant concerns about the bill's ability to deliver meaningful outcomes. I urge the committee to reconsider HB410 and make the necessary amendments to ensure that these appropriations truly serve the needs of the Native Hawaiian community.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Inagaki

Phone: 808-259-6775

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:47:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I **SUPPORT HB410** for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

Transparency and Synergy: OHA seeks to fund staff positions focused on leveraging partnerships with other state and county agencies and increasing transparency around OHA's work through an online dashboard. This is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars to ensure collaboration between and among government entities that serve Native Hawaiians and share common goals.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I am happy to see the innovative approach that OHA's leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Scott Amona

swamona@gmail.com

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:53:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawaiohawaiki Anakalea	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Why are we begging for our own money??

Give us Kanaka Maoli our birth right Kala. Why should we ask permission to be Hawaiian in Hawai'i? Let the Hawaiian kingdom rule & make decisions for our people first & foremost. If you folks really want to do the right thing, Give us this building. I'll take the office in the top right hand side.

The fake state of Hawai'i owes the Kanaka millions on millions of dollars. Three of my grandparents were pure blooded HAWAIIAN and my grandfather was Hawaiian Chinese and Spaniard. I've been waiting on the list for Hawaiian Home land for over 20 years and now they buy an apartment building which nobody that showed up to testify was for except one person and they ignored us and they still bought the building because they view us as numbers they're trying to get us off the list as quick as possible there's no way I'm gonna settle for an apartment we want land that's why it's called the Dept Hawaiian Home Lands right ? should we ask permission to be HAWAIIAN?

Do the right thing and give us our reparations. Free land & housing, free education (in complete Olelo Hawai'i) and free healthcare. Anyone with an OHA card yeah?? Let's start there. Who has an OHA card here? Let me see. Does it give any discount ms anywhere? I always heard growing up that we should be living like kings & queens on our islands. It's time for the fake state of Hawai'i to concede to the Hawaiian kingdom.

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:59:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaeralee-Tiare Manosa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I **SUPPORT HB410** for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

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As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I am happy to see the innovative approach that OHA's leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Shaeralee-Tiare Manosa

P.O Box 581 Kaunakakai, HI 96748

email: iomolokai@gmail.com

(808)658-9366

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:08:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

it is way past time for OHA to receive it's share of the PLT revenues OHA is lawfully required to receive. It is hard for me as a regular citizen to comprehend why some laws are being broken by the very entities that create them. Please do better with our laws.

mahalo for providing this platform for regular citizens to be heard - for over 50 years it was a challenging endeavour and i appreciate this new process..

mary drayer

Ke aloha nō e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Pā‘anaakalā Baybayan Tanaka and I **SUPPORT HB410** for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

Transparency and Synergy: OHA seeks to fund staff positions focused on leveraging partnerships with other state and county agencies and increasing transparency around OHA’s work through an online dashboard. This is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars to ensure collaboration between and among government entities that serve Native Hawaiians and share common goals.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I am happy to see the innovative approach that OHA’s leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Na‘u me ke aloha,

Pā‘anaakalā Tanaka

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:23:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pialaloha Callahan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I Pialaloha Callahan **SUPPORT HB410** for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

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I am happy to see the innovative approach that OHA’s leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 1:47:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in STRONG support of **HB410**.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 2:37:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SEAN SPENCER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support HB410.

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 4:28:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Okihiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB410 to:

- Advance ‘Ōiwi wellbeing and reduce disparities in health, housing, education and economic development.
- Support 13 new staff positions to accelerate implementation of OHA’s 15-year strategic plan, [Mana i Maui Ola](#).
- Expand collaboration to ensure effective delivery of services to Native Hawaiians across government service-providers.
- Increase transparency and accountability through creation of an online dashboard showing progress in meeting Mana i Maui Ola benchmarks.

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 4:42:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cresta Proctor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I **SUPPORT HB410** for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

Transparency and Synergy: OHA seeks to fund staff positions focused on leveraging partnerships with other state and county agencies and increasing transparency around OHA’s work through an online dashboard. This is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars to ensure collaboration between and among government entities that serve Native Hawaiians and share common goals.

I am confident that the monies fully allocated would benefit our Kanaka Maoli greatly and ensure a more sustainable and enriching future.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I am happy to see the innovative approach that OHA’s leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Mahalo

Cresta Proctor

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 5:56:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riana O'Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Board,

I am writing in support of HB410. So much of the work that both the State and OHA do is on a volunteer basis. Although volunteering is usually an act of personal kuleana and a sense of duty to one's culture, it is refreshing to see paid positions on the table. Hawai'i is one of the most expensive places in the world to live, and people who are committed to the preservation and future of our culture should be compensated as such. It will be wonderful to see how much more can get done, when more hands are available to help.

It's been great to see the proposals this year. I genuinely feel like together, we are moving forward as a group, and that the future of Hawai'i is improving with bills such as this on the table. Thank you for your time and your effort in improving Hawai'i, it is much appreciated.

Riana O'Keefe

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I **SUPPORT HB410** for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

Transparency and Synergy: OHA seeks to fund staff positions focused on leveraging partnerships with other state and county agencies and increasing transparency around OHA's work through an online dashboard. This is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars to ensure collaboration between and among government entities that serve Native Hawaiians and share common goals.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I am happy to see the innovative approach that OHA's leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

William L Kapaku Jr
DHHL Wait List

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 6:37:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Napua Froman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I **SUPPORT HB410** for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

Transparency and Synergy: OHA seeks to fund staff positions focused on leveraging partnerships with other state and county agencies and increasing transparency around OHA's work through an online dashboard. This is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars to ensure collaboration between and among government entities that serve Native Hawaiians and share common goals.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I am happy to see the innovative approach that OHA's leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Napua Froman

nfroman@hotmail.com

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 7:09:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

much needed funding to hire staff to complete the mission of mana i mauiola

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 8:38:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Please pass this bill to continue expanding funds for these very vital Hawaiian programs.

Thank you,

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

I **SUPPORT HB410** for the following reasons:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs has undergone some major changes in the past year. With new leadership in place, they're ready to accelerate their 15-year strategic plan, Mana I Maui Ola. This plan, if properly funded, promises to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries, something that is desperately needed and long overdue.

OHA has never been allocated its fair share, due by law. If OHA is to serve its beneficiaries accordingly, the state must ensure that the OHA budget is fully funded its full pro rata share.

With diaspora of our Hawaiian population happening daily, we must take aggressive action. I believe that OHA, with a fully funded budget, will be one of the key government entities to help turn the tide of diaspora. Let's act today, rather than standby and watch the degradation of Hawaii continue.

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

Lionel Camara
(808) 282-7126

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:27:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Apo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill for the welfare of Hawaiians of our state.

Mahalo.

Lori Apo

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:43:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Niniau Kawaihae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill.

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 10:19:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

support

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 11:34:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I SUPPORT HB410 for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

Transparency and Synergy: OHA seeks to fund staff positions focused on leveraging partnerships with other state and county agencies and increasing transparency around OHA's work through an online dashboard. This is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars to ensure collaboration between and among government entities that serve Native Hawaiians and share common goals.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I am happy to see the innovative approach that OHA's leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

Tiare Smith

Email: Lahela79@yahoo.com

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 11:38:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Shafer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 11:54:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roberta Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am submitting this testimony in SUPPORT of HB410.

Hawaii’s leaders and lawmakers have made significant strides in recent years to make up for past injustices and provide more robust resources and support for our indigenous peoples. Further, coming out of the pandemic, it is clear that the needs and dreams of our local people should be of paramount priority in planning for the future. Nonetheless, much, much more remains to be done. HB410 addresses vital and unfinished business that has been allowed to languish for a decade, since the passage of Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012.

With this 2025 Legislative session, the people have elected a number of new representatives to the State House and Senate. So please allow me an opportunity to clarify a few key points of history that I believe have become clouded by time and—in some cases—deliberate misdirection and obfuscation by opponents.

For example, while the 2006 restriction on residential development in Kaka’ako Makai was well known at the time of the 2012 settlement, it was always the understanding of both OHA and the legislators with which it negotiated in good faith that additional changes to the law would be needed and forthcoming.

Senate Committee reports confirm that the settlement included the intent to revisit entitlements for housing on the conveyed land. Specifically, lawmakers acknowledged in the report from the Committees for Hawaiian Affairs and Water, Land and Housing that “property values could be enhanced by certain entitlements that, while not specifically provided for in this measure, could be obtained at a future date.” The Committee on Judiciary and Labor also noted their conviction that “this measure does not represent a final settlement of all of the longstanding ceded land claims, nor does it encompass all ceded land parcels within the lands identified as the Kaka’ako Makai area.”

Indeed, the stated value of the settlement of \$198 million was based on the development potential of Kaka’ako Makai, including residential development. If the 2006 restriction remains in place, the actual value of the property is well below \$100 million.

OHA had made clear in 2012 that a cash settlement was ideal, but the political climate at the time—coming out of a period of massive deficits and ‘Furlough Fridays’—required OHA to take the land deal, and quickly. I think it’s important to consider that, had OHA been paid \$200 million in 2012, even conservative investment of such funds would yield a return totaling \$350 million today.

Further, not only was the value of the settlement overstated given the residential ban, but the property was found to have suffered from decades of profound neglect by the state. Between the blighted condition of the land prior to acquisition by the state, and deferred maintenance of critical shoreline bulkhead and underground infrastructure, OHA finds itself facing tens of millions of dollars in remediation and repairs. HB410, therefore, also seeks recourse for the inadequately disclosed condition of the property at the time of conveyance.

This is not the first time OHA has sought to address the deficiencies of the state settlement. The ability to develop housing in Kaka‘ako Makai was sought in 2016. And four Senate committees reconfirmed the documented intent of the legislature to grant OHA the needed entitlements. Nonetheless, the proposal failed.

In 2021, a bill to rescind the prohibition on residential development successfully passed in the Hawaii State Senate, but was outright denied any hearing in the House, again killing the proposal.

As deliberations resume once again, I feel compelled to point out that the 2006 law restricting residential development was passed by the legislature after a loud, coordinated campaign of special interest groups—some of which enlisted under flimsy pretenses—to preserve the million-dollar ocean views of wealthy stakeholders across the street and surfers wanting a private beach. The law was created by the legislature and can be changed by the legislature, as is its purview.

Do not let history conclude that the Legislature was more responsive to these special interest groups than the clear, demonstrated need for Native Hawaiians to be given the right to design and build their own pathway toward thriving, vibrant future generations.

I urge you to pass HB410 to finally deliver on the promise made to OHA and its Hawaiian beneficiaries in 2012. Pass HB410 to ensure OHA has the resources necessary to fulfill its mission successfully and sustainably for all Hawaiians across Hawaii. Pass HB410 to clear the way for OHA and its partners to build a special community gathering place in the heart of Honolulu that welcomes all people, from keiki to kupuna, and honors its historic sense of place, Hawaiian cultural values, and our unique island lifestyle.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 12:05:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I SUPPORT HB410 for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

Transparency and Synergy: OHA seeks to fund staff positions focused on leveraging partnerships with other state and county agencies and increasing transparency around OHA's work through an online dashboard. This is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars to ensure collaboration between and among government entities that serve Native Hawaiians and share common goals.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I am happy to see the innovative approach that OHA's leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,
Brenten Kanoa Yamane
brentenyamane@gmail.com

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 12:21:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William W. Rems III	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing in support of House Bill #410.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is actively engaged in activities which support the Native Hawaiian community. OHA is essential advocate for Native Hawaiian rights and self-determination / governance in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you!

William (Trip) Rems

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 12:27:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremy Burns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I **SUPPORT HB410** for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

Transparency and Synergy: OHA seeks to fund staff positions focused on leveraging partnerships with other state and county agencies and increasing transparency around OHA’s work through an online dashboard. This is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars to ensure collaboration between and among government entities that serve Native Hawaiians and share common goals.

OHA should be funded appropriately so that it can better fulfill its mission to support Native Hawaiians.

Mahalo,

Jeremy Burns

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 1:11:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I **SUPPORT HB410** for the following reasons:

Delivery of Services: This bill increases funding for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to hire new staff and accelerate implementation of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, to advance the wellbeing of its beneficiaries. The state has never allocated OHA its full pro rata share due by law and therefore periodic appropriations are just, fair, and necessary to enable OHA to meet its broad mandate to better the condition of Native Hawaiians.

Transparency and Synergy: OHA seeks to fund staff positions focused on leveraging partnerships with other state and county agencies and increasing transparency around OHA’s work through an online dashboard. This is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars to ensure collaboration between and among government entities that serve native Hawaiians and share common goals.

As an OHA beneficiary and voter, I am happy to see the innovative approach that OHA’s leadership is bringing to its statutory and constitutional mandates. I look forward to our legislators who are here to serve their constituents, to be the advocators for native Hawaiians as you fulfill your Trust responsibilities.

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

Theodora Furtado, 2115 Ala Wai Blvd, Honolulu, HI 96815

HB-410

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 3:34:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please pass

[HB410](#)

Companion: SB269

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

Aloha,

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

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

I'm in SUPPORT of

Appropriating funds for the **operating expenses of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs** for the fiscal biennium from **July 1, 2025**, to **June 30, 2027**, ensures the continuation of OHA's work in advancing the well-being of the Native Hawaiian community. By funding advocacy, community programs, and cultural preservation, this initiative has both **economic** and **social** implications that help uplift Native Hawaiians and support their rights to land, resources, and self-determination.

Mahalo,

_____/s/_____
Cindy Freitas