

**HCR-71**

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 2:27:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 4/10/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Nichols	Testifying for Ko Olina Golf Club	Comments	In Person

Comments:

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Mr. Chris Lee

Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

State Capitol

415 South Beretania

Honolulu, Hi. 96813

**RE: HCR 71 REQUESTING THE KO OLINA GOLF CLUB OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO PREVENT GOLF BALLS FROM REACHING FARRINGTON HIGHWAY.**

Aloha Senator Lee,

My name is Greg Nichols and I have been General Manager of the Ko Olina Golf Club since 2002. I appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts regarding House Concurrent Resolution No. 71, which calls for measures to prevent golf balls from reaching Farrington Highway.

At Ko Olina Golf Club, the safety of our community, including the many commuters traveling along Farrington Highway, is of paramount importance. We acknowledge the concerns raised

regarding errant golf balls reaching the highway and potential hazards they could pose to drivers and pedestrians.

Please know we have been exploring measures that include realigning the holes along Farrington Highway and increasing the height of trees and foliage along the fence line. We will be coordinating these measures and reaching out to the Department of Transportation regardless of HCR 71 moving forward in committee discussions.

I've served as a PGA Golf Professional since 1984 and been an active member of the golf industry in our state. This type of scenario is discussed periodically within our industry. We value the intent of this resolution and the collaborative approach proposed to enhance safety for both our golfers and the broader community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working together to ensure that safety continues to be a priority of our operation.

Kind regards,

Greg Nichols

PGA General Manager

Ko Olina Golf Club

**LATE**

**HCR-71**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 10:23:00 AM

Testimony for TCA on 4/10/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Testifying for Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands & Ohana Unity Party	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Subject: Strong Support for H.C.R. No. 71 – Protecting Farrington Highway from Ko Olina Golf Balls

To the Honorable Members of the House of Representatives and Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawaii  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

I am thrilled to offer my wholehearted support for House Concurrent Resolution No. 71, which calls on the Ko Olina Golf Club owners and management, in partnership with the Department of Transportation, to implement measures preventing golf balls from reaching Farrington Highway. This resolution tackles a growing safety crisis head-on, and I urge you to take it a step further by holding Ko Olina accountable through golf ball fees and insurance claims to fund these critical fixes. Mahalo for prioritizing the well-being of our community!

The Urgent Safety Threat on Farrington Highway:

- **Heavy Traffic at Risk:** The Department of Transportation reports 54,000 daily commuters travel the 18.5-mile stretch of Farrington Highway between Kalaeloa Boulevard and Kea‘au—a number projected to surge by 22% by 2040.
- **Stray Golf Balls Rising:** Reports of golf balls from Ko Olina Golf Club hitting homes, cars, and landing on Farrington Highway are increasing, turning a scenic drive into a hazardous gauntlet.
- **Real Danger:** A golf ball striking a vehicle or pedestrian at highway speeds could cause serious injuries or fatal accidents—an unacceptable risk for drivers and walkers alike.

Ko Olina’s Responsibility to Act:

- Proximity Problem: Certain holes at Ko Olina Golf Club sit dangerously close to Farrington Highway, making stray balls an inevitable threat without intervention.
- Commonsense Fixes: Netting, barriers, or course redesigns could keep balls on the green, yet Ko Olina's management has been slow to act—leaving the public to bear the risk.
- A Community Plea: Residents and commuters deserve immediate action to eliminate this preventable danger, not excuses from a private club profiting off our backyard.

#### A Bold Funding Solution: Charge Ko Olina:

- Golf Ball Fees: Ko Olina should impose a per-incident fee on golfers whose balls leave the course, incentivizing better play and funding safety upgrades like taller nets or rerouted holes.
- Insurance Claims: The club's liability insurance should cover damages to vehicles and property—shifting costs from taxpayers and victims to Ko Olina, where responsibility lies. Estimated claims from a single incident (e.g., a cracked windshield) can range from \$200-\$500, per local auto repair data.
- Fair and Feasible: With Ko Olina's revenue from green fees (often \$200+ per round) and events, these measures are a drop in the bucket for them—but a lifeline for our safety.

#### HCR 71 is a Win for All:

This resolution's call for collaboration between Ko Olina and the Department of Transportation is a smart start. The 2026 report will provide clarity, but why stop there? By pushing Ko Olina to fund solutions through fees and claims, you can ensure swift action without burdening public coffers. This isn't just about safety—it's about justice for commuters who shouldn't dodge golf balls on their daily drive.

I'd be delighted to discuss this further—please reach me at [ohanaunitychair@gmail.com](mailto:ohanaunitychair@gmail.com) (mailto:ohanaunitychair@gmail.com). Mahalo nui loa for championing HCR 71 and protecting our roads with bold, creative leadership!

With enthusiastic Aloha,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM  
Chairman, Ohana Unity Party  
Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.  
[www.ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.ohanaunityparty.com)

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**HCR-71**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:01:03 AM

Testimony for TCA on 4/10/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Germaine Meyers	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Honorable Members,

I'm in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR71.

I'm a lessee of Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead. Everytime I drive east to shop and to do business, I must drive on Farrington Highway past Ko Olina Golf Course. This measure will ensure efforts are made to eliminate the chances that a ball will damage vehicles on Farrington Highway and/or cause major car accidents.

**LATE**

**HCR-71**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:56:12 AM

Testimony for TCA on 4/10/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting Resolution, thank you!