

Bill 44 Testimony



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

Testimony in **SUPPORT of Bill 44: Relating to the O'ahu Historic Preservation
Commission**

10 a.m.

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and members of the Honolulu City Council,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i offers testimony in **support of Bill 44**, to ensure our historic and cultural sites are protected from irreparable harm.

Our historic preservation law recognizes that "the historic and cultural heritage of the State is among its important assets and that the rapid social and economic developments of contemporary society threaten to destroy the remaining vestiges of this heritage." The law accordingly relies upon interagency and intergovernmental coordination for consultation, review, and other procedural and substantive protections in decisionmaking that may impact Native Hawaiian burials, cultural sites, and other historic features. Such protections are essential to preventing the irreversible loss of a **physical and spiritual foundation for Native Hawaiian traditional values, practices, and knowledge that enabled hundreds of thousands of people to live sustainably on our islands – and that may be the key to the resilience and well-being of our current and future generations.**

Unfortunately, as highlighted by Resolution 22-36, the administration of our historic preservation law has been long plagued with chronic, systemic problems that have resulted in the irreparable loss of burials and other cultural sites and features that had been preserved for generations, forever cutting off the values, practices, and knowledge they embodied. Resolution 22-36 specifically recognized that the lack of coordination and communication between the state historic preservation division and the county department of planning and permitting is one such problem that must be addressed. Given these concerns, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly appreciates and supports this bill, which would empower the long-neglected O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission to ensure that county decisions are appropriately vetted and referred to the state historic preservation division, consistent with the letter and intent of our historic preservation law.

Therefore, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Council to **adopt** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Honolulu City Council
Honolulu Hawaii, 96813-3077

Good Morning Council Members
Chairman, Tommy Waters
Vice Chair, Ester Kiaaina
hearing on bill 44, 8/10/2022

Aloha my name is Michael Hale Hikalea, board member for Pu'uhonua o Wailupe and a lineal descendant of the Wailupe burial caves. I testify in strong support of bill 44 as amended.

I believe that the current agencies lack a critical part of its commission and see bill 44 as meeting those needs. And that would be lack of communication, miss communication and critical documents being lost. From my personnel experience as well as other Kia'i of Iwi Kupuna our most cherished possession (the bones and artifacts of our ancestors). This has and continues to happen.

I also represent the Ohana of multiple genealogical lines related to Wailupe, Waialae-iki and surrounding areas and one of those is Kalua. He was one of 28 names in public notice related to the Wailupe burial caves. As time may not be in my favor at the moment. I make myself available to share He **"Mo'olelo no Kalua o Wailupe"** at your request.

And for these reasons I strongly support bill 44 and thank each of you for this opportunity and time to testify.

Sincerely,

Michael Hale Hikalea