

**RES25-207**  
**Testimony**

**MISC. COMM. 451**

COUNCIL

## **COUNCIL Meeting**

Meeting Date: Sep 3, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 16

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

|                                                                                                |                                       |                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Name:<br>Hawaii LECET                                                                          | Email:<br>info@hawaiilecet.org        | Zip:<br>96817                         |
| Representing:<br>Hawaii Laborers & Employers Cooperation and Education Trust<br>(Hawaii LECET) | Position:<br>Support                  | Submitted:<br>Aug 29, 2025 @ 04:18 PM |
| Name:<br>Ana Tuiasosopo                                                                        | Email:<br>atuiasosopo@oe3.org         | Zip:<br>96707                         |
| Representing:<br>Operating Engineers Local 3                                                   | Position:<br>Support                  | Submitted:<br>Sep 1, 2025 @ 05:52 AM  |
| Name:<br>Kiran Polk                                                                            | Email:<br>kiranpolk@gmail.com         | Zip:<br>96707                         |
| Representing:<br>Kapolei Chamber of Commerce                                                   | Position:<br>Support                  | Submitted:<br>Sep 2, 2025 @ 08:55 AM  |
| Name:<br>Mark Anthony Clemente                                                                 | Email:<br>mclemente@hrcc-hawaii.com   | Zip:<br>96817                         |
| Representing:<br>Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters                                         | Position:<br>Support                  | Submitted:<br>Sep 2, 2025 @ 09:35 AM  |
| Name:<br>Peter Ganaban                                                                         | Email:<br>testimonylocal368@gmail.com | Zip:<br>96817                         |
| Representing:<br>The Laborer's International Union Local 368                                   | Position:<br>Support                  | Submitted:<br>Sep 2, 2025 @ 09:38 AM  |
| Name:<br>Andrew Pereira                                                                        | Email:<br>apereira@prp-hawaii.com     | Zip:<br>96813                         |
| Representing:<br>Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP)                                            | Position:<br>Support                  | Submitted:<br>Sep 2, 2025 @ 10:59 AM  |
| Name:<br>Georgette Stevens                                                                     | Email:<br>georgette.stevens@gmail.com | Zip:<br>96792                         |
| Representing:<br>Self                                                                          | Position:<br>Support                  | Submitted:<br>Sep 2, 2025 @ 01:53     |

|                            |                                       |                                         |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|                            |                                       | PM                                      |
| Name:<br>Brandon Souza     | Email:<br>brandon.souza@cbpacific.com | Zip:<br>96707                           |
| Representing:<br>Self      | Position:<br>Support                  | Submitted:<br>Sep 2, 2025 @ 01:54<br>PM |
| Name:<br>Ilihia Huddleston | Email:<br>ilihia@alohamodern.com      | Zip:<br>96792                           |
| Representing:<br>Self      | Position:<br>Support                  | Submitted:<br>Sep 2, 2025 @ 01:55<br>PM |
| Name:<br>Lane Maki         | Email:<br>lane@actionsofaloha.com     | Zip:<br>96813                           |
| Representing:<br>Self      | Position:<br>Support                  | Submitted:<br>Sep 2, 2025 @ 01:56<br>PM |
| Name:<br>Matt Kauwe        | Email:<br>matt@nakamakai.org          | Zip:<br>96792                           |
| Representing:<br>Self      | Position:<br>Support                  | Submitted:<br>Sep 2, 2025 @ 01:57<br>PM |
| Name:<br>Patti DeSoto      | Email:<br>patidesoto8@gmail.com       | Zip:<br>96792                           |
| Representing:<br>Self      | Position:<br>Support                  | Submitted:<br>Sep 2, 2025 @ 01:58<br>PM |
| Name:<br>Jacob Aki         | Email:<br>jacob@jacobaki.com          | Zip:<br>96818                           |
| Representing:<br>Self      | Position:<br>Support                  | Submitted:<br>Sep 2, 2025 @ 01:59<br>PM |
| Name:<br>Leinani Kaleihuia | Email:<br>leinanikaleihuia@gmail.com  | Zip:<br>96792                           |

|                                                   |                                   |                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Representing:<br>Self                             | Position:<br>Support              | Submitted:<br>Sep 2, 2025 @ 02:00<br>PM |
| Name:<br>Dariane Kauhane                          | Email:<br>kaohanaaki@gmail.com    | Zip:<br>96818                           |
| Representing:<br>Self                             | Position:<br>Support              | Submitted:<br>Sep 2, 2025 @ 02:06<br>PM |
| Name:<br>Lance Holden                             | Email:<br>holdengd2015@icloud.com | Zip:<br>96707                           |
| Representing:<br>'Ahahui Siwila Hawai'i o Kapolei | Position:<br>Support              | Submitted:<br>Sep 3, 2025 @ 12:13<br>AM |



## HAWAII LABORERS-EMPLOYERS COOPERATION AND EDUCATION TRUST

650 Iwilei Road, Suite 285 · Honolulu, HI 96817 · Phone: 808-845-3238 · Fax: 808-845-8300

September 3, 2025

To: **The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair**  
**Honolulu City Council Committee on Zoning & Planning**  
City & County of Honolulu  
530 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **RES. 25-207, CD1: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE COVE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT, SMA MAJOR PERMIT NO. 2025/SMA-19**

FOR HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 at 10:00 AM; CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola and Members of the Honolulu City Council,**

The **Hawaii Laborers & Employers Cooperation and Education Trust** (Hawaii LECET) is a labor + management partnership established in 1992 between the 5,000 statewide members of the Hawaii Laborers Union and over 250 construction companies that belong to the *General Contractors Association* and the *Building Industry Association*. The Laborers International is the largest construction trade union in North America, and Hawaii LECET is part of a network of 38 labor-management LECET Funds across the country.

**Hawaii LECET strongly supports The Cove Redevelopment project.**

- The Cove project will finally provide convenient access to this beautiful property for all local residents, instead of being currently reserved exclusively for tourists
- Feature local entertainment, restaurants, retail stores, gathering spaces, a comfort station and public showers that will serve and benefit the local community and visitors alike
- Help perpetuate the deep history and rich Hawaiian heritage of our islands with a new amphitheater and performing arts center
- Facilitate exciting community gatherings, cultural events, and stimulating educational workshops in the spacious new open lawn and cultural pavilion
- Generously add much-needed new additional public parking for local residents
- Create over 1,400 construction jobs and over 800 permanent jobs during operations
- Generate \$115 million in economic output from two years of construction and \$54M in wages for local union labor, including \$4.6M in State and \$2.1M in City revenue per year.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our strong support for The Cove Redevelopment project.

Mahalo,

**Hawai'i Laborers & Employers  
Cooperation and Education Trust**



September 1, 2025

Honorable, Tommy Waters, Honolulu City Council, Chair  
Honorable, Esther Kia'āina, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Honolulu City Council

**RE: RESOLUTION 25-207, CD1 GRANTING A SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA MAJOR PERMIT TO ALLOW FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE COVE COMMERCIAL PROJECT IN KO 'OLINA, O'AHU. (APPLICANT: COVE CAMPBELL KOBAYASHI, LLC)**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and members of the Council,

My name is Ana Tuiasosopo, and I am a Trustee and District Representative for the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 3, representing heavy equipment operators, mechanics, surveyors, and other skilled tradespeople in Hawai'i's construction industry.

I submit this testimony in support of The Cove Redevelopment Resolution 25-207 CD1.

The Cove is a proposed commercial (entertainment/dining/retail) project designed to serve visitors and locals alike. What makes this project unique is that it will target local customers and bring them back to the area. This will help reintegrate Koolina back into the local community.

Economically it will provide the following:

- 870 full-time jobs during the construction phase are expected to be generated
- 480 full-time, long-term jobs during operation are expected to be sustained by the project
- \$115.4 million in total economic output is estimated to be generated during the 24-month construction period
- \$54.3 million in labor income is also anticipated to be generated during the construction phase

We humbly ask the council to support the approval for the SMA Major Permit for this project.

Ana Tuiasosopo,

Trustee/District Representative  
International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 3

September 3, 2025

Honolulu City Council  
830 S. King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



*Working together for Kapolei*

City Council Meeting

September 3, 2025, 10:00am, in the City Council Chamber or via video conference

**RE: RESOLUTION 25-207 – 92-1089 Ali‘inui Drive – Ko ‘Olina, Granting a Special Management Area Major Permit to Cove Campbell Kobayashi, LLC**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia‘āina and City Council members,

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director and CEO of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce advocates for businesses and economic growth in the West O‘ahu region, including Waipahu, Kapolei, ‘Ewa Beach, Honokai Hale, Ko Olina, Nānakūli, Wai‘anae, and Mākaha. The Chamber works on behalf of its members and the business community to improve the regional and state economic climate and help West O‘ahu businesses thrive. We are a member-driven, member-supported organization representing the interests of all types of businesses: small, medium, or large, for-profit, or non-profit businesses, or sole proprietorships.

We would like to express **support** for Resolution 25-207 which will grant a Special Management Area Major Permit to Cove Campbell Kobayashi, LLC, The Cove Redevelopment Project (The Cove). We recognize the potential economic benefits this project could bring to our region to reinforce Kapolei’s role as the “Second City” and potentially drive business growth, job creation, and long-term investment in our community.

The Cove represents an opportunity to expand Kapolei’s business landscape by introducing new dining, retail, and entertainment experiences that will serve both residents and visitors. There is a commitment from The Cove to showcase local artisans and prioritize small businesses with locally made products, which could provide opportunities for our west side entrepreneurs.

In addition to its business benefits, The Cove is expected to serve as a significant job creator for our region. During construction, the project is projected to create 1,400 jobs, boosting the local economy. Once complete, The Cove is anticipated to provide 800 permanent jobs in hospitality, tourism, events, and retail, allowing West O‘ahu residents to work closer to home and enjoy a better quality of life.

It is our understanding that The Cove will promote cultural authenticity while providing new reasons for visitors to stay, dine, and shop at existing nearby attractions in Kapolei. This could increase spending at local businesses, restaurants, and service providers, benefiting our entire regional economy.

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce believes The Cove has the potential to drive economic growth, support local businesses, and create new employment opportunities while honoring the rich history of the land. We encourage full approval of this project and look forward to working together to ensure its success.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Kiran Polk  
Executive Director & CEO



# HAWAII REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

September 3, 2025

To: The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair  
The Honorable Andria Tupola, Vice Chair  
Members of the Honolulu City Council

Re: **Testimony in Support of The Cove Redevelopment Project - RES 25-207**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Councilmembers:

The Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters (HRCC) represents over 6,000 working men and women across the state who help build Hawai'i from the ground up. HRCC submits this testimony in strong support of the proposed Cove Redevelopment Project and Res 25-207.

The Cove is more than a commercial project—it is an opportunity to revitalize a historically significant area on the leeward coast of O'ahu while honoring its past and creating a sustainable, community-driven future. For decades, access to this coastal site has been limited to exclusive events. This project changes that. The Cove will open its doors to residents and visitors alike, offering cultural, educational, and recreational spaces that are rooted in Hawaiian heritage and inclusive of our local communities.

From an economic and workforce perspective, the benefits are clear and compelling:

- **Over 800 full-time jobs** will be generated during the construction phase.
- **Over 500 long-term permanent jobs** will be sustained once the project is operational.
- The project is expected to generate **\$115.4 million in total economic output** and **\$54.3 million in labor income** during its construction period.

These aren't just numbers on a spreadsheet—they represent local jobs, stable careers, and the kind of opportunities that help our families thrive. Especially in times of economic uncertainty, projects like The Cove demonstrate the power of responsible, forward-thinking development. The proposed amphitheater, cultural pavilion, village walk, and open-air gathering spaces are more than just amenities—they are commitments to place, people, and purpose. This project

## STATE HEADQUARTERS & BUSINESS OFFICES

OAHU: 1311 Houghtailing Street, Honolulu Hawaii 96817-2712 • Ph. (808) 847-5761 Fax (808) 440-9188  
HILO OFFICE: 525 Kilauea Avenue, Room 205, Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3050 • Ph. (808) 935-8575 Fax (808) 935-8576  
KONA OFFICE: 75-126 Lunapule Road, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740-2106 • Ph. (808) 329-7355 Fax (808) 326-9376  
MAUI OFFICE: 330 Hookahi Street, Wailuku, Maui 96793-1449 • Ph. (808) 242-6891 Fax (808) 242-5961  
KAUAI OFFICE: Kuhio Medical Ctr Bldg., 3-3295 Kuhio Hwy, Suite 201, Lihue, Kauai 96766-1040 • Ph. (808) 245-8511 Fax (808) 245-8911

will not only provide spaces for celebration and commerce, but also for education and cultural preservation.

This is the kind of investment our communities need—one that creates jobs, honors our culture, and keeps our economic future rooted in local hands.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Mark Anthony Clemente  
Government Relations  
Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters



# LiUNA!

## Written Testimony for the Honolulu City Council

Tuesday, September 3rd, 2025, 10:00 am

**PETER A. GANABAN**  
*Business Manager/  
Secretary-Treasurer*

**ALFONSO OLIVER**  
*President*

**JOBY NORTH II**  
*Vice President*

**TONI FIGUEROA**  
*Recording Secretary*

**MARTIN ARANAYDO**  
*Executive Board*

**ORLANDO PAESTE**  
*Executive Board*

**JOSEPH YAW**  
*Executive Board*

**ESTHER AILA**  
*Auditor*

**RUSSELL NAPIHAA**  
*Auditor*

**MARK TRAVALINO**  
*Auditor*

**YUGAN HOTTENDORF**  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

**Re: Resolution 25-207 - IN SUPPORT: Granting a Special Management Area Major Permit to allow for the redevelopment of the Cove Commercial Project in Ko 'Olina, O'ahu.**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council:

The Laborer's International Union Local 368 represents 5000+ members working in construction, environmental remediation, maintenance, food service, health care, clerical, and other occupations, as well as in state, local, and municipal government jobs and as mail handlers in the U.S. Postal Service across the State.

The Laborer's International Union Local 368 **supports Resolution 25-207:** Granting a Special Management Area Major Permit to Cove Campbell Kobayashi, LLC.

The Cove is a proposed commercial (entertainment/dining/retail) project designed to serve visitors and locals alike. It is being developed under a partnership between James Campbell Company (JCC), Kobayashi Group, and BlackSand Capital. The project requires approval from the Honolulu City Council for a Special Management Area Major permit (SMA Major Permit No. 2025/SMA-19) as well as a Conditional Use Permit-Major (CUP Major Permit No. 2025/CUP-4).

If approved, the Cove would create 870 full-time jobs during the construction phase and 480 full-time, long-term jobs during operation. In addition, Laborers Union members and its retirees are investors in the Cove through our member funds. This means that this project will not only employ local residents, but also contribute significantly to their retirement and benefit plans, ensuring revenue stays in our local communities.

We respectfully request you approve this request. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Ganaban

Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer  
Laborers International Union of North America - Local 368  
1617 Palama Street  
Honolulu, HI 96817

LiUNA Local 368  
1617 Palama Street  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
Phone: (808) 841-5877  
Fax: (808) 847-7829  
[www.local368.org](http://www.local368.org)

*Feel the Power*



Testimony of  
Pacific Resource Partnership

Honorable Members of the Honolulu City Council  
Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025

**Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of Resolution 25-207 Special Management Area  
Major Permit for The Cove Project in Ko'olina**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and esteemed members of the committee:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) represents the 6,000 members of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters (HRCC) and approximately 250 independent signatory contractors statewide.

PRP strongly supports Resolution 25-207, granting a Special Management Area (SMA) Major Permit for The Cove Project in Ko'olina, led by the James Campbell Company, LLC, which has responsibly stewarded this land for more than 140 years. This transformative development will reimagine nearly 11 acres of underutilized commercial land into a vibrant, contemporary gathering place that honors Hawai'i's host culture while delivering significant economic and community benefits to O'ahu's Leeward Coast. The Cove Project will create a dynamic hub for locals and visitors, featuring dining, retail, an amphitheater, and cultural spaces that celebrate Native Hawaiian heritage. By preserving two wedding chapels and constructing 15 new buildings, including restaurants and a village walk retail area, the project blends modern amenities with cultural reverence, ensuring a space that reflects the spirit of aloha.

Economically, The Cove Project is a game-changer. It's prognosticated to generate over 800 jobs during construction, providing opportunities for local workers and stimulating the economy. Upon completion, it will sustain over 500 permanent full-time jobs, offering stable employment for Leeward Coast residents. These jobs will allow community members to work closer to home, reducing commute times and easing traffic congestion – a critical benefit for all of O'ahu's families. Additionally, the project is projected to contribute \$4.6 million annually to state



**(Continued From Page 1)**

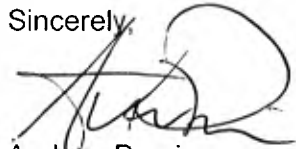
government revenue and \$2.1 million to city revenue, supporting public services and infrastructure, while helping to keep the residential property tax rate low.

PRP also lauds James Campbell Company, LLC for its exemplary community engagement and commitment to responsible stewardship of the 'āina. The company has actively involved community members, ensuring the project aligns with local values and needs. Their thoughtful approach, coupled with adherence to environmental and cultural safeguards outlined in the resolution, demonstrates a dedication to preserving Ko'olina's natural and cultural resources.

The Cove Project is a model for sustainable, community-focused development. It balances economic growth with cultural preservation and environmental responsibility, all while addressing coastal hazards like sea level rise through proactive landowner acknowledgments. PRP urges the Honolulu City Council to approve Resolution 25-207, enabling this visionary project to move forward and deliver lasting benefits to O'ahu's Leeward Coast and beyond.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Andrew Pereira

Director of Public Affairs  
Pacific Resource Partnership  
1100 Alakea Street, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 528-5557  
Email: [apereira@prp-hawaii.com](mailto:apereira@prp-hawaii.com)  
Website: [www.prp-hawaii.com](http://www.prp-hawaii.com)

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Georgette Nohea Stevens, and I write in strong support of Resolution 25-207 to approve the Special Management Area (SMA) Major Permit for The Cove Redevelopment Project in Ko Olina.

For me, The Cove is about more than new buildings—it's about restoring meaning to a place with deep history and culture. I appreciate the project's effort to center Kanaka 'ōiwi (Native Hawaiian) values, tell our mo'olelo (stories), and design with 'āina in mind. The recognition of our kūpuna and ali'i, including Kamokila Campbell, is especially meaningful; rather than sidelining those narratives, this project brings them forward.

I also recognize the economic benefits. The Cove will create construction jobs now and permanent positions in the future, supporting families on the Wai'anae Coast and across West O'ahu. The emphasis on local ownership of shops, restaurants, and cultural spaces helps keep resources circulating in our community.

As someone who grew up on the Wai'anae Coast and still calls it home, I believe development must be done with care and community mana'o. From what I've seen, The Cove has made that effort. It feels like the kind of responsible development Hawai'i needs more of.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to support and adopt Resolution 25-207.

Mahalo for considering my mana'o,

**Georgette Stevens**

[georgette.stevens@gmail.com](mailto:georgette.stevens@gmail.com)

**Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-207 – The Cove Redevelopment Project**  
**Honolulu City Council – Zoning Committee**  
**Thursday, September 3, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Committee Members,

My name is Brandon Souza, and I'm writing in strong support of Resolution 25-207 to grant the SMA Major Permit for The Cove Redevelopment Project in Ko Olina.

This project turns an underused, historically important site into a place where people can work, gather, and celebrate our community. It's slated to create about 1,400 construction jobs and 800 permanent jobs, giving more West O'ahu residents the chance to work closer to home and support their families.

What I like most is the community-centered design: locally owned restaurants, shops, and cultural spaces that keep dollars here and lift up local entrepreneurs and artisans. That's the kind of growth we need—thoughtful, steady, and rooted in place.

The Cove also honors the 'āina and our stories, including the legacy of Alice Kamokilaikawai Campbell, by weaving Native Hawaiian history and values into the visitor experience. It's a practical, culturally grounded model for how we should build in Hawai'i.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to adopt Resolution 25-207 and move The Cove forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Brandon Souza**

brandon.souza@cbpacific.com

**Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-207 – The Cove Redevelopment Project**  
**Honolulu City Council**  
**Thursday, September 3, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Honolulu City Council,,

My name is Ilihia Huddleston, and I'm submitting testimony in strong support of Resolution 25-207, approving the SMA Major Permit for The Cove Redevelopment Project.

The Cove represents a chance to do development in Hawai'i the right way—by weaving culture, history, and community values into its design. The recognition of Kamokila Campbell's legacy and the commitment to place-based storytelling make this more than just a commercial project.

I also value the economic benefits this project will bring—over 1,400 construction jobs and more than 800 permanent jobs that will help West O'ahu families. Just as important, The Cove prioritizes local ownership of its shops, restaurants, and cultural spaces, ensuring that financial benefits stay within our communities.

West O'ahu deserves opportunities that are both economically strong and culturally grounded. The Cove strikes that balance.

I respectfully ask you to support and adopt Resolution 25-207.

Mahalo,  
**Ilihia Huddleston**



ilihia@alohamodern.com

**Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-207 – The Cove Redevelopment Project**  
**Honolulu City Council**  
**Thursday, September 3, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Honolulu City Council,,

My name is Lane Maki, and I am writing in strong support of Resolution 25-207, which would approve the Special Management Area (SMA) Major Permit for *The Cove Redevelopment Project* in Ko Olina.

West O'ahu has long needed projects that both drive economic growth and reflect cultural responsibility. The Cove strikes that balance. It will create over 1,400 construction jobs and 800 permanent jobs, giving local families more opportunities to work and thrive here at home rather than commuting long hours every day.

What makes this project meaningful is its clear effort to honor the 'āina and our heritage. From recognizing the legacy of Kamokila Campbell to designing spaces that highlight Native Hawaiian values and locally owned businesses, The Cove offers a thoughtful model for how development in Hawai'i should be done.

I also appreciate the focus on making this a community gathering place—not just a commercial site. By uplifting cultural programming, small businesses, and local artisans, The Cove helps ensure that the benefits are shared with the community and that the place remains connected to the people who call West O'ahu home.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support and adopt Resolution 25-207 and move this important project forward.

Mahalo,  
**Lane Maki**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lane Maki', with a stylized, flowing script.

lane@actionsofaloha.com

**Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-207 – The Cove Redevelopment Project**  
**Honolulu City Council**  
**Thursday, September 3, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Honolulu City Council,,

My name is Matt Kauwe, and I am writing in strong support of Resolution 25-207 to approve the SMA Major Permit for The Cove Redevelopment Project.

This project is important for West O‘ahu. It honors the cultural history of the ‘āina while creating jobs and economic opportunities for our families. The Cove is projected to provide hundreds of permanent jobs and thousands of construction jobs, but beyond the numbers, it represents a future where people can live, work, and thrive without leaving their community.

What stands out to me is the project’s commitment to local businesses and artisans. By uplifting small businesses and ensuring that local ownership is a central part of the plan, The Cove keeps economic benefits rooted in West O‘ahu.

This is the type of development that balances respect for our past with investment in our future. I respectfully urge you to adopt Resolution 25-207.

Mahalo,

**Matt Kauwe**  
matt@nakamakai.org



**Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-207 – The Cove Redevelopment Project**  
**Honolulu City Council**  
**Thursday, September 3, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

We are John and Pati DeSoto, residents of the Wai'anae Coast, and we write in strong support of Resolution 25-207, which would grant the SMA Major Permit for The Cove Redevelopment Project in Ko Olina.

Over the years, we've seen many changes come to the West Side. What gives us hope about The Cove is that it feels different—it's being planned with respect for the land, honor for our culture, and support for local families. This project isn't just about new buildings; it's about restoring meaning and purpose to a place that holds deep significance in our mo'olelo and in the lives of many kama'āina.

We appreciate that The Cove recognizes the legacy of Kamokila Campbell and highlights Native Hawaiian culture while creating space for locally owned businesses. That's important to us as kūpuna who care deeply about what kind of Hawai'i our mo'opuna will inherit.

The Cove is projected to create more than 1,400 construction jobs and over 800 permanent jobs. But more than numbers, it's about giving our keiki and their keiki opportunities to live and work close to home, without having to leave their community to find work.

We also believe this project has been approached with aloha and respect. From what we've seen, the developers have taken time to listen and incorporate feedback from the community, and that goes a long way.

For all these reasons, we humbly ask you to adopt Resolution 25-207. The Cove is more than a development—it's a chance to build community, honor culture, and create opportunities for our families.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to share our mana'o,

**John and Pati DeSoto**  
patidesoto8@gmail.com



**JACOB AKI**

**P:** 808-230-9071

**E:** jacob@jacobaki.com

**A:** 3215 Ala Ilima Street #A705  
Honolulu, HI 96818

**Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-207 – The Cove Redevelopment Project**  
**Honolulu City Council**  
**Thursday, September 3, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Jacob Aki, and I currently serve as President of Ke One O Kākuhihewa, the O'ahu Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, and am the past President of Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i – 'Ahahui Po'o. While I submit this testimony in my personal capacity, through my work with the above organizations I have developed a deep connection to projects and places that honor our ali'i and the legacy of Hawaiian leadership. It is from that perspective that I offer my strong support for The Cove Redevelopment Project.

This project represents more than economic opportunity—it is a chance to honor the legacy of Alice Kamokilaikawai Campbell, the daughter of James Campbell and Abigail Kuaihelani. Kamokila was a proud Native Hawaiian leader and descendant of ali'i who carried herself with dignity, generosity, and fierce advocacy for her people. She stood firm in protecting Hawaiian identity and sovereignty, ensuring that the voices of her lāhui were heard.

I want to commend the James Campbell Company for the outstanding job they have done in their intent to honor place. Their approach demonstrates a respect for history and cultural identity that I believe should be modeled in any redevelopment or development project in Hawai'i.

The Cove provides a unique opportunity to continue Kamokila's legacy. By embracing the values of 'opu ali'i—a heart of service, generosity, and care for community—The Cove will create a gathering place that sustains local families and uplifts cultural identity. Its commitment to highlight locally made products, elevate the work of West O'ahu artisans, and provide opportunities for Native Hawaiian families to thrive economically ensures that the vision aligns with what Kamokila herself stood for.

Equally important, The Cove will generate 1,400 construction jobs and 800 permanent jobs, allowing our people to work closer to home and strengthen the bonds of 'ohana. Beyond economics, however, the project reflects an approach to development rooted in cultural responsibility. It demonstrates that growth and stewardship of 'āina can walk hand in hand when guided by respect for our kūpuna and their legacies.

Approving this project affirms the commitment to honor leaders like Alice Kamokilaikawai Campbell while ensuring that her legacy endures through a place that serves the community, nurtures cultural expression, and builds a stronger future for West O'ahu.

I respectfully urge your approval of Resolution 25-207, granting the Special Management Area (SMA) Major Permit and Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for The Cove Redevelopment Project.

Me ke aloha,

**Jacob Aki**

## **Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-207 – The Cove Redevelopment Project**

**Honolulu City Council**

**Thursday, September 3, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Honolulu City Council,,

My name is Leinani Kaleihuia, and I am writing in strong support of Resolution 25-207, which would approve the Special Management Area (SMA) Major Permit for The Cove Redevelopment Project in Ko Olina.

West O‘ahu deserves projects that bring real economic opportunity to our community while also honoring our cultural identity. The Cove is exactly that. With over 1,400 construction jobs and 800 permanent jobs projected, this project will allow more local families to work closer to home and provide economic stability for generations to come. The integration of local businesses and artisans into the project also ensures that these economic benefits remain rooted in our community rather than flowing elsewhere.

Just as important, The Cove takes seriously its kuleana to honor the ‘āina and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture. By recognizing the legacy of Kamokila Campbell, weaving Native Hawaiian values into the design, and uplifting cultural programming, the project demonstrates that economic growth and cultural preservation can and should coexist.

This vision of The Cove as not just a development, but a gathering place, makes it unique. It will provide spaces where local families, visitors, and future generations can connect with both culture and community while supporting economic growth that benefits all of West O‘ahu.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support and adopt Resolution 25-207 and help move this important project forward.

Mahalo,

**Leinani Kaleihuia**

**Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-207 – The Cove Redevelopment Project**  
**Honolulu City Council**  
**Thursday, September 3, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I write in strong support of The Cove Redevelopment Project—a project that not only promises economic growth and job opportunities, but also honors the cultural legacy and spirit of this ‘āina.

This land, once home to Alice Kamokila Campbell, a proud Native Hawaiian leader and descendant of ali‘i, carries with it a history rooted in the values of ‘opu ali‘i—a heart of service, generosity, and care for the people. Kamokila embodied the essence of Hawaiian hospitality and fierce protection of our cultural identity. She stood for the well-being of her lāhui and the dignity of her people. The Cove offers us a rare opportunity to continue that legacy by creating a space that supports local families, small businesses, and artisans, while welcoming others with aloha.

The Cove is more than a commercial venture. It is a vision that aligns with the future we seek for our keiki and mo‘opuna—1,400 construction jobs and 800 permanent jobs for local residents, allowing our people to work closer to home, spend more time with ‘ohana, and strengthen the fabric of our communities. These opportunities are vital for Native Hawaiian and local families who often endure long commutes just to make a living.

What makes this project especially meaningful is its commitment to cultural authenticity—highlighting locally made products, elevating the work of West O‘ahu artisans, and creating a gathering place that reflects the spirit and stories of our people. This is the kind of development that nurtures both the economic resilience and the cultural identity of our community.

By encouraging visitors to stay, dine, and shop in Kapolei, The Cove will circulate economic benefits throughout Wai‘anae, Nānākuli, and the broader West O‘ahu region. It ensures that the prosperity of the “Second City” uplifts everyone—not just those within Kapolei’s boundaries.

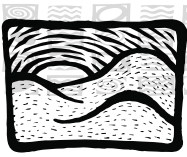
As a Native Hawaiian, I believe this project honors the kuleana we have to care for our ‘āina and our people. It embodies the balance between growth and cultural stewardship, the same balance that Kamokila Campbell fought for in her time. Approving The Cove is a chance to continue that legacy—strengthening our community, providing opportunity, and perpetuating the spirit of ‘opu ali‘i in how we welcome and care for all who come here.

I respectfully urge your approval of Resolution 25-207, granting the Special Management Area (SMA) Major Permit and Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for The Cove Redevelopment Project. Let us move forward together, rooted in our history and guided by the promise of a thriving, culturally grounded future.

Mahalo nui,

**Dariane Kauhane**

kaohanaaki@gmail.com



'Ahahui Siwila Hawai'i O Kapolei  
PO Box 700007  
Kapolei, Hawai'i 96709

September 3, 2025

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola and  
Members of the Honolulu City Council

**Re: Support for Resolution 25-207 – Special Management Area Major Permit for The Cove  
Redevelopment, Ko 'Olina, O'ahu**

**Oli Kāhea (Opening Call):**

*E nā luna 'aha 'ōlelo, e ho'olohe mai,  
E mālama i ke kuleana, no ka pono o ka 'āina a me ke kai.*  
(Leaders of this council, hear our call,  
Uphold your responsibility, for the well-being of land and sea.)

Aloha Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,

The 'Ahahui Siwila Hawai'i O Kapolei is a Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1993, kupa'āina of Honouliuli rooted with the kuleana to assure that the cultural traditions and practices of 'Ōiwi O Hawai'i are perpetuated by promoting cultural awareness and an authentic Hawaiian presence in our community.

On behalf of 'Ahahui Siwila Hawai'i O Kapolei, we submit testimony in strong support of Resolution 25-207, granting a Special Management Area (SMA) Major Permit for the redevelopment of The Cove in Ko 'Olina, O'ahu.

After reviewing the project and the SMA, we found no adverse effects, as the construction project is limited to the original footprint of Paradise Cove. However, should any issues arise, the SMA adequately addresses current environmental and cultural impact issues and provides contingencies to address future environmental and cultural impact issues.

As a Native Hawaiian community-based organization grounded in values of mālama 'āina (caring for the land) and ho'okipa (welcoming and sharing responsibly), we believe this project has the potential to honor both the cultural and natural resources of the Ko 'Olina area while providing meaningful benefits to the residents of the 'Ewa and Wai'anae Moku (Leeward O'ahu).

This redevelopment is an opportunity to:

- **Uplift Community:** The Cove has long been a gathering space for residents and visitors. Redevelopment can enhance its role as a place of connection, reflection, and perpetuation of Hawaiian values, while ensuring that the community continues to feel welcome and included.
- **Preserve and Perpetuate Culture:** The Cove weaves Native Hawaiian culture, history, and storytelling into its design, including recognition of the legacy of Kamokila Campbell. This sets an example of how development in Hawai'i should be done—with aloha, ha'aha'a and malama 'āina



- **Protect & Restore Resources:** Through the SMA review, safeguards are in place to ensure that coastal areas, marine ecosystems, and cultural sites are respected and preserved for future generations. This aligns with our kuleana (responsibility) to safeguard our ‘āina and kai.
- **Strengthen Local Opportunities:** The project will provide jobs, training, and economic opportunities that support local families, while maintaining balance with the environment and cultural heritage of Ko ‘Olina.
- **Build with Intention:** The redevelopment process offers a chance to demonstrate how modern development in Hawai‘i can be rooted in sustainability, cultural sensitivity, and aloha ‘āina.

We respectfully urge the Committee to adopt Resolution 25-207 and support a project that reflects pono (balanced and just) decision-making for Ko ‘Olina and the greater community of the ‘Ewa and Wai‘anae Moku (Leeward O‘ahu).

**Oli Ho‘opau (Closing Call):**

*E ola ka ‘āina, e ola ke kai,*

*E ola nā kānaka a pau.*

(Let the land live, let the ocean thrive, Let all people flourish.)

Mahalo nui loa for your time, attention, and continued commitment to thoughtful stewardship of our island home.

Owau me ka ha‘ha‘a e mahalo nui loa,



Lance C. Lanakila Holden

President

‘Ahahui Siwila Hawai‘i O Kapolei

