BILL031(26)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 258

*HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS & PARKS (HHP)

***HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS & PARKS (HHP) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Jun 23, 2026 @ 02:30 PM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano	Kingdompathways.info@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Kingdom Pathways	Support	Jun 22, 2026 @ 06:55 PM

KINGDOM PATHWAYS
ALOHA ʻĀINA

Testimony in SUPPORT of Bill 31 (2026)
Relating to Cultural Sites in Public Parks

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano, testifying on behalf of **Kingdom Pathways**, a Native Hawaiian-led nonprofit based in Waiʻanae. Our work focuses on ʻāina-based stewardship, cultural preservation, and community-driven public health.

We strongly support Bill 31 (2026).

In Waiʻanae Moku, at Kūʻīlioloa Heiau, our community is already doing this work. We have been restoring and caring for this wahi pana, engaging our youth and kūpuna, honoring ʻike kupuna, and helping protect the surrounding coastal habitat and native species.

Yet we continue to see ongoing disturbance of cultural sites, impacts to natural and cultural resources, and limited tools for communities and agencies to work together to protect these places. Bill 31 helps address those gaps by creating a pathway for stewardship plans, community partnerships, and enforceable protections that can help move us from simply asking for respect to actively protecting these important resources.

As this program is implemented, we encourage the Council to ensure that stewardship plans reflect a shared community vision and not solely the perspective of one adopter or organization. Many cultural places hold significance for multiple families, practitioners, and community members. In our experience, concerns and differing viewpoints have been successfully addressed through the Neighborhood Board Parks Subcommittee process, which provides a transparent forum for discussion, public input, and consensus-building. We encourage similar opportunities for community engagement and due process within the stewardship planning process.

The long-term mālama of these places is strongest when it is collaborative, inclusive, and community-driven. For places like Kūʻīlioloa Heiau, this bill is about ensuring that our cultural sites are not only acknowledged, but cared for, protected, and sustained for future generations.

We respectfully urge you to pass Bill 31 (2026).

Mahalo for your time and commitment to protecting our ʻāina.

With Aloha,
Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano
Co-Founder, Kingdom Pathways