

Resolution 26-151 Testimony



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL Committee on Zoning and Planning

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 26-151

June 25, 2026

9 a.m.

City Council Chambers

Aloha Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Honolulu City Council Zoning and Planning Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i offers testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of Resolution 26-151**, to preserve and protect iwi kupuna and the cultural integrity of Wailupe, O'ahu.

The proposed conservation easement, as approved by the Clean Water and Natural Lands Advisory Committee, would enable permanent, Kānaka 'Ōiwi-led protection and stewardship of cherished iwi kupuna, and restore 'Ōiwi connections to 'āina in one of the last accessible, undeveloped sites in an area once known for its rich cultural history and spiritual significance.

It will also validate a unique model of creative problem solving and collaboration between government, landowners, and Kānaka 'Ōiwi who have already demonstrated their deepest commitment and capacity to steward 'āina, and to fulfill their kuleana to their kūpuna, their ancestral lands, and to the lāhui. This commitment and capacity includes coordinating educational site visits, hosting regular on-the-ground invasive species removal and native replanting activities, advising and assisting agencies such as the Board of Water Supply on cultural and historic preservation issues, and engaging on other matters affecting the environmental and cultural integrity of Wailupe. Notably, the members of the Pu'uohonua o Wailupe have also demonstrated their longstanding commitment to protecting our island as a whole, including through their significant leadership roles in the Shut Down Red Hill Campaign, their ongoing efforts to keep the public apprised on the status of our aquifer, and their tireless work helping communities on the north shore and in Wai'anae recover from the Kona low flooding that occurred earlier this year.

Finally, support for the acquisition of this conservation easement will also reflect the Committee's and City's recognition of the critical importance of Kānaka 'Ōiwi governance, land use practices, values, and multigenerational perspectives to rebuilding our foundations of 'āina, wai, and kaiāulu – foundations that are essential to navigating our ever-worsening climate crisis.

Therefore, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee's support of the Pu'uohonua o Wailupe's Clean Water Natural Lands application for the purchase of a conservation easement in Wailupe. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



Independent & Sovereign Nation State of Hawai'i

NATION OF HAWAI'I

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

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of **Resolution 26-151** and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe.

After speaking with a lineal descendant connected to this property, I am even more convinced of the importance of preserving and protecting this sacred place. The property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural and historical resources, and open space that holds deep meaning for Native Hawaiians and the broader community.

The permanent protection of this land will help ensure that these irreplaceable cultural resources are preserved for future generations. It is an opportunity to honor our ancestors, safeguard places of historical and cultural significance, and prevent inappropriate development that could disturb or destroy these valuable resources.

As stewards of Hawai'i's heritage, we have a Kuleana (responsibility) to protect places that connect us to our history, our culture, and our Kūpuna. Resolution 26-151 represents an important step toward fulfilling that Kuleana.

I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for your continued commitment to protecting iwi kūpuna, preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage, and ensuring that sacred places such as this remain protected for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Pu'uhonua Dennis K. Kanahale

Head of State / President

Nation of Hawaii