

RES26-151
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 277

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jul 8, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 48

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Rebekah Garrison	Email: garrisonrs@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 2, 2026 @ 01:18 PM
Testimony: Aloha, I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.		
Name: Kaylene Sheldon	Email: kauwilamahina@gmail.com	Zip: 96730
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 2, 2026 @ 01:49 PM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Members of the Honolulu City Council, I am writing to express my strong support for Resolution 26-151, which proposes the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect the property identified as TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This land is of immense cultural significance, sacred burial grounds of iwi kūpuna and vital historical sites. Protecting this parcel is essential to safeguarding these sacred resources from development and ensuring they remain undisturbed for future generations. By adopting this resolution, the Council has a meaningful opportunity to honor Hawai'i's history and demonstrate a lasting commitment to the preservation of our cultural heritage. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend the adoption of Resolution 26-151. Mahalo for your time, your consideration, and your ongoing efforts to protect the sacred places that define our community. Me Kealoha pumehana, Kaylene Kauwila Sheldon		
Name: Malia Marquez	Email: maliamarquez71@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 2, 2026 @ 02:05 PM
Testimony: Aloha Kākou, What a pleasure it is to once again testify on behalf of our kupuna. Protecting them in their place of rest is the pono thing to do. I am a cultural descendant to this 'āina, a lineal descendant of my 8th great grandparents Mo'i Kuali'i and Kukuimakalani who was the sister of Peleioholani. None of this should matter, who our lineage is, every kanaka has some		

sort of ties to Chiefs, Royals, kupuna of our past. Its our kuleana as kanaka to mālama our 'āina, protect our past and move forward as best as we can in our home which so much has become unrecognizable through changes, influences and outsiders. Pu'uhonua o Wailupe was created to mālama our iwi kupuna, to allow them to stay "home" forever, where they were purposely placed and be the stewards of this land. Please support us, support the 'āina and support our iwi kupuna in conserving this land in perpetuity. Mahalo nunui.

Malia Marquez

Name:

Laurie Akana

Email:

lalioni02@yahoo.com

Zip:

96917

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Jul 2, 2026 @ 02:25 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'ana, & members.

I am a resident of Oahu and am in strong support of Resilution 26-151 and the use of clean water and natural lands funding permanently protect the iwi kupuna at Wailupe. This area contains many iwi kupuna, significant cultural sites, and natural undisturbed space that should remain this way in perpetuity. There are few spaces that can still be protected from demolition and destruction. Wailupe is a sacred place that should be preserved in its natural state. Mahalo for you consideration,

Laurie Akana

Name:

Teani Marquez

Email:

teanimarquez04@gmail.com

Zip:

96825

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Jul 2, 2026 @ 02:25 PM

Testimony:

Aloha kākou,

I strongly support resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Waters and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This 'āina is the home to iwi kupuna, significant cultural sites and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Mahalo nui for your time on this vital matter.

Teani Marquez

Name:

BOB ISIP

Email:

BOBISIP@GMAIL.COM

Zip:

96821

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Jul 2, 2026 @ 03:00 PM

Testimony:

I support Res. 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. This property contains iwi kupuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be

preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honor's Hawaii's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains, thereby protecting the said site from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151. Mahalo for your consideration and continued support of protecting iwi kupuna and preserving Hawaii's cultural heritage.

Rev. Bob Isip, Kilohana United Methodist Church, 5829 Mahimahi Street, Honolulu, 96821.

Name: Liann Jimmons	Email: liannjimmons@gmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 2, 2026 @ 04:28 PM

Testimony:

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

I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Liann Jimmons

Mo'ili'ili

Name: Keke Manera	Email: manera_makaha@yahoo.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 2, 2026 @ 05:06 PM

Testimony:

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

I support 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. This property contains iwi kupuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i and it's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kupuna and preserving Hawaii's cultural heritage.

Mahalo for your consideration, Keke M.		
Name: Dylan Armstrong	Email: dylan.p.armstrong@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 4, 2026 @ 05:04 AM
Testimony: I support this measure without further elaboration, none being necessary.		
Name: Jennifer Latham	Email: revjenn.hnc@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 5, 2026 @ 07:11 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and Members of the Honolulu City Council, I write in full 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. For several years I have provided spiritual support for Pu'uuhonua o Wailupe and have participated in their physical work with the 'āina in the site that will be protected with this resolution. I have witnessed the community learn about the significance of this site and gather to support the work there. As a priest with the Episcopal Church (Church of the Holy Nativity) nearby, one of my roles is to notice and point to the sacred in our world. The work that Pu'uuhonua o Wailupe has been doing to protect iwi kūpuna and other artifacts has been sacred work undertaken with humility and care. I urge you to vote yes to protect this special place. The Rev. Jennifer Briggs Latham Associate Rector and Chaplain Holy Nativity Church and School		
Name: Shiu Mei Bassette	Email: meimeimommi@gmail.com	Zip: 96823
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 5, 2026 @ 12:02 PM
Testimony: I support resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) three - 6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kapuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawaii's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the council to		

recommend the adoption of resolution 26–151. Gratitude for your continued support of protecting iwi kapuna, and preserving Hawaii’s cultural heritage. Mahalo for your consideration, Shiu Mei

Name: Kukui Akana	Email: hokuliu@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Nā Maka Ihe Kahikina	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 5, 2026 @ 10:04 PM

Testimony:

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

Nā Maka Ihe Kahikina respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of Resolution 26-151.

Nā Maka Ihe is a non-profit organization from Waimānalo that focuses on cultural programming and supports all Kānaka ‘ōiwi discourse in education and athletics, particularly in ‘ōlelo Hawai’i. We are born of ‘ike ku’una and stand on the shoulders of our kūpuna to further build the next generation of successful and industrious lāhui leaders. As kupa of Waimānalo, it is in our mo’okū’auhau to advocate for Hawaiian rights, lands, and people.

We strongly support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that need to be preserved for future generations. Protecting this ‘āina and the kūpuna who rest there demonstrates respect and honor for Hawai’i’s history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development and is cherished by future generations. We respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai’i’s cultural heritage.

Nā Maka Ihe Kahikina

Hōkū A.
Kukui A.
Leicey B.

Name: Kūho’okahilehuanoka’ala A.	Email: kukuiakana2024@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Nā Wahine Ko’i	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 5, 2026 @ 10:09 PM

Testimony:

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

Nā Wāhine Ko’i respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of Resolution 26-151.

Nā Wāhine Ko’i O’ahu (“NWK”) is not an organization, but we are organized. We stand united in our commitment to mālama kō Hawai’i pae’āina. NWK stands as six islands united across the pae’āina, including wāhine, māhū, and kāne, that acknowledge, recognize, and support wāhine stepping into our kuleana as kia’i of kō Hawai’i pae’āina. We stand together against ALL hewa to lāhui and ‘āina now and forever.

We strongly support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that need to be preserved for future generations. Protecting this ‘āina and the kūpuna who rest there demonstrates respect and honor for Hawai’i’s history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development and is cherished by future generations. We respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai’i’s cultural heritage.

Nā Alaka’i o Nā Wāhine Ko’i O’ahu:

Kukui A. U’ilani K. Kaleo N. Jarnell H.
Keala O. Chanelle L. Nālani L.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Michele Liu	taecia@hawaii.edu	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kailua	Support	Jul 5, 2026 @ 10:15 PM

Testimony:

Aloha e Chair Kia’āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kailua respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of Resolution 26-151.

Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kailua is a Hawaiian immersion program within Kailua High School, with the majority of students who speak fluent ‘ōlelo Hawai’i from Waimānalo. We ‘ōpio represent the perpetuation of ‘ōlelo Hawai’i, the continuation of ‘ike ku’una, and the next generation of young Hawaiian leaders. We also kūpa’a against any hewa and mismanagement of ‘āina and iwi kūpuna.

We strongly support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that need to be preserved for future generations. Protecting this ‘āina and the kūpuna who rest there demonstrates respect and honor for Hawai‘i’s history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development and is cherished by future generations. We respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai‘i’s cultural heritage.

Na mākou me ke aloha ‘āina ‘oia‘i‘o,

Nā Haumāna o Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kailua

Name: Taecia K. A.	Email: ahahui@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96822
Representing: ‘Ahahui ‘o Hawai‘i	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 5, 2026 @ 10:27 PM

Name: Katelynn Mika	Email: katelynnika05@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 6, 2026 @ 08:15 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia‘aina, and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai‘i’s history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai‘i’s cultural heritage.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Katelynn Mika

Name: Cheryl Burghardt	Email: burgharc@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 6, 2026 @ 02:25 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Council Members,

I support 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. Our hale has watched and supported the efforts of the people who have worked diligently to protect, preserve and educate the significance of the cultural sites and the sacred spaces of the iwi kupuna. It is important for us to build safeguards to keep sacred spaces like Wailupe protected. We have seen a beautiful collaboration at Wailupe, a model for the future of how we can work together. Mahalo for your support and I ask that the Council adopt this resolution 26-151.

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Wendy Green	deegreen15@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 6, 2026 @ 02:27 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Council Members,

I support 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. Mahalo for your support and I ask that the Council adopt this resolution 26-151.

Wendy Green

Nuuanu Oahu

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Wayne Tanaka	hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org	96803
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Sierra Club of Hawai'i	Support	Jul 6, 2026 @ 06:10 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Michael Hikalea	mikehikalea@yahoo.com	96795
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Puuhonua o Wailupe	Support	Jul 6, 2026 @ 10:45 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, vice Chair Tupolu fellow Council Members.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify, I Support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding for the acquisition of TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe, and protecting in perpetuity this site. Containing iwi Kupuna and important historic and cultural resources. The protection of this site will ensure the sacredness of our Wahi Pana will remain intact for generation's In perpetuity. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo nui for your continued support of protecting iwi Kupuna and preserving Hawaii's cultural heritage.

Mahalo,
Michael Hikalea

Name:
Katelynn Mika

Email:
katelynnika05@gmail.com

Zip:
96817

Representing:
Self

Position:
Support

Submitted:
Jul 6, 2026 @ 10:51 PM

Testimony:

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

I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Katelynn Mika

Name:
Rachel Tjoeng

Email:
racheltjoeng@gmail.com

Zip:
96821

Representing:
Self

Position:
Support

Submitted:
Jul 6, 2026 @ 11:10 PM

Testimony:

Aloha e Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council-

I strongly support 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. This property contains irreplaceable iwi kūpuna and significant cultural sites. This open space must be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rachel Tjoeng

Settler resident in Wailupe		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jody Johnson	hawaiijohnson1@gmail.com	96734-4508
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 6, 2026 @ 11:13 PM
Testimony: I support res26-151 and the user of clean water and natural lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK(1)3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kupuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the council to recommend adoption of res26-151. Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kupuna and preserving Hawaii's cultural heritage. Mahalo for your consideration, Jody		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kumella Aiu	kumella@me.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 07:11 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council, I support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to purchase and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains multiple burial sites, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151." Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage. Thank you for your consideration, Kumella Aiu		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kapali Keahi	kapalimusic@gmail.com	96761
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 08:36 AM
Testimony: Testimony in Support of Resolution 26-151		

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia’āina, and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I write in strong support of Resolution 26-151, approving Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe.

This ‘āina contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should never be subjected to future development. Protecting this place is not only a land-use decision. It is an act of cultural responsibility, historical repair, and aloha ‘āina.

This week also marks the anniversary of the Newlands Resolution, passed by the United States Congress in 1898. For Hawai’i, that moment is not merely history. It represents the attempted annexation of our homeland without the consent of the Hawaiian people, following the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and the creation of the so-called Republic of Hawai’i.

But our kūpuna did not remain silent. They organized, protested, signed the Kū’ē Petitions, and stood firmly for aloha ‘āina. Their resistance was not rooted in hatred. It was rooted in love: love for ‘āina, love for lāhui, love for justice, and love for the generations yet to come.

Today, we honor that same spirit by protecting places like Wailupe. When iwi kūpuna are present, the question before government should not be how much development can be allowed. The question should be how quickly and permanently protection can be secured.

The Council has an opportunity to act with humility, foresight, and respect. By supporting Resolution 26-151, you affirm that our kūpuna are not obstacles to progress. They are the foundation of who we are as Hawai’i.

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
M. Healani Sonoda-Pale	healanipale@gmail.com	96824
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 08:46 AM

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

My name is M. Healani Sonoda-Pale. I am a Kanaka Maoli whose genealogy traces back many generations to O’ahu

families. I am a co-founder and serve as a volunteer board member of Pu'uhonua o Wailupe and an elected member of the Kuli'ou'ou/Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board. I write in strong support of Resolution 26-151 to approve Clean Water and Natural Lands funding for the acquisition and permanent protection of TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. For too long in Hawai'i, the bones of our ancestors have been unearthed, displaced, and desecrated in the name of development.

Pu'uhonua o Wailupe embodies the traditional Hawaiian concept of a pu'uhonua—a place of refuge and protection. This property is serving as a pu'uhonua for iwi kūpuna, a sacred place where our ancestors remain at rest, protected from future disturbance and cared for by descendants and the community. We all know that Wailupe is a place where iwi kūpuna have been found. The archaeological record confirms it. The oral histories confirm it. Historical accounts confirm it.

The State Historic Preservation Division has recognized a significant portion of the property as a significant cultural landscape, and multiple archaeological sites on the property have been formally documented and recorded. Beyond the known sites, there are likely additional cultural resources that have yet to be identified. This property offers a rare opportunity to permanently preserve an entire cultural landscape where iwi kūpuna, cultural sites, traditional knowledge, and the stories of this place can be protected for future generations.

Historical accounts demonstrate that the presence of burials at Wailupe has been documented for generations. In his recollections of being stationed at Wailupe in the early 1930s, Lieutenant Roy E. Brown, U.S. Navy (Ret.), described exploring a cave near the former radio station where he found "the remains of a canoe, bones and other items." Decades later, Peggy Hodge published her account of visiting a Hawaiian burial cave at Wailupe where she observed a canoe containing bones wrapped in tree fern pulu along with cultural objects. These accounts are consistent with what lineal descendants and cultural practitioners have long known—that Wailupe is a sacred burial landscape.

For more than four years, Pu'uhonua o Wailupe has actively stewarded this site. During that time, we have hosted dozens of community workdays involving hundreds of volunteers. We maintain regular communication with the public through our website, blog, social media platforms, email updates, and presentations to the Kuli'ou'ou/Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board regarding the status of the property and stewardship efforts. This work has been transparent, community-based, and open to public participation from the beginning.

This effort has received broad support from across East O'ahu and Hawai'i. Pu'uhonua o Wailupe's application is supported by the Waimānalo, Hawai'i Kai, and Kuli'ou'ou/Kalani Iki Neighborhood Boards; Holy Nativity Church in Wailupe; Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation; Sierra Club of Hawai'i; Kilohana United Methodist Church; the Board of Water Supply; Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center; Hawai'i State Representative Mark Hashem; and Kumu Hula Kawaikapuokalani Hewett.

Over the past four years, Pu'uhonua o Wailupe has also worked closely with community partners including 'Āina Haina Elementary School, Kaiser High School, and the United States Coast Guard. This broad coalition reflects a shared

commitment to protecting Wailupe's cultural, historical, educational, and environmental resources for future generations.

Our stewardship is guided by the lineal descendants of Wailupe whose families have lived in and cared for this ili since time immemorial. They carry the oral histories, cultural knowledge, and ancestral connections that cannot be found in reports or archives. Their 'ike and leadership have been essential to caring for this place and envisioning its future as a protected cultural landscape where iwi kūpuna are respected and preserved in place.

This acquisition will ensure there is no future residential development on this sacred place. Instead, the property will remain open space dedicated to the protection of iwi kūpuna, cultural sites, native habitat, and the history of Wailupe. It will provide a place where descendants can continue to connect with their ancestors via controlled access to burials, where cultural practitioners can fulfill their kuleana, and where future generations can learn about the history and significance of this area.

I have been blessed to have worked with 'Āina Haina Elementary School and Kaiser High School students to share some of this history and help foster the next generation of stewards. I also want to highlight the efforts we have made toward fireproofing a significant portion of the 2.9 acre parcel and turning it into a place of peace and restoration, with native and Hawaiian canoe plants. I respectfully urge you to support Resolution 26-151 and help ensure that Wailupe remains a pu'uhonua—a place of refuge for iwi kūpuna, cultural sites, descendants, and future generations.

Mahalo for your consideration.

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale

Name: Lorraine Fogel	Email: lsfogel@hotmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 7, 2026 @ 08:49 AM

Testimony:

Thank you for your leadership in pushing this forward to protect the iwi kupuna of Wailupe and conserve this land for the next generation.

Name: Michael Hikalea	Email: puuhonuaowailupe@gmail.com	Zip: 96824
Representing: Puuhonua o Wailupe	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 7, 2026 @ 09:02 AM

Name: Karenann Puu-Grubbs	Email: kelagrubbs@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 10:03 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and Members of the Honolulu City Council, I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawaii's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151." Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawaii's cultural heritage. Mahalo for your consideration. Kela Puu-Grubbs		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Danielle Rose Magee	drmagee158@gmail.com	96744
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 10:08 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council, I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151. Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage. Thank you for your consideration, Danielle		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
SEAN ENGLISH	seanmichaelce@gmail.com	96744
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 10:30 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the Council,		

I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sean English

Name: Imani Altemus-Williams	Email: imani.altemuswilliams@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 7, 2026 @ 10:34 AM

Testimony:

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

I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Imani Altemus-Williams

Name: CHAD FELICIANO	Email: chadjkf86@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Hui Kū Like Kākou @ Ka'ala	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 7, 2026 @ 10:51 AM

Testimony:

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

I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be

preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Chad JK Feliciano

Name: Brendan Burns	Email: Brendanburns21@aol.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 7, 2026 @ 10:54 AM

Testimony:

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

I am submitting testimony as a private citizen who happens to serve as the principal of Aina Haina Elementary School. I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you,

Brendan Po'ohala Burns

Name: Raquel Runnels	Email: raq.runnels@gmail.com	Zip: 96786
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 7, 2026 @ 01:41 PM

Testimony:

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

I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be

preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawaii's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Me ka mahalo piha,

Raquel S. Runnels

Wahiawā

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Dorian Cooley	likolehua@liliuokalanicourt.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 02:48 PM

Testimony:

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

I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Likolehua Cooley

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Alison Hufana	makanoehufana@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Pu'uhonua O Wailupe	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 04:42 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and members of the Council.

I support 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. This property contains iwi kupuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for your continued support in protecting iwi kupuna (burials) and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alison-Marie Makanoë Hufana

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ekini Lindsey	ekinilindsey@gmail.com	96812
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Pu'uhonua O Wailupe	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 07:56 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Council Members. I am writing to express my strong support for Resolution 26-151, which aims to preserve TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe, a significant land featuring important artifacts, ancestral remains, and sustainable eco-garden of native plants. I urge you to adopt this resolution to ensure the preservation of this land for succeeding generations and to protect Hawaii's cultural inheritance. As a k  naka of Waimea, Hawaii Island, and a current resident of O'ahu, I have had the opportunity to learn about the significance of Wailupe and the Hawaiian names that surround the ahupua'a. Notably, I was fascinated to learn that a canoe is stored in one of the caves, reminiscent of a similar canoe stored in a cave near my home in Waimea. These vital components are sacred and require protection. Pu'uhonua O Wailupe has demonstrated great dedication to preserving a historical legacy for our next generation. Mahalo for your tireless efforts in preserving our ancestral rights!!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jasmine Ikeda	jasikeda808@gmail.com	96818
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 07:59 PM

Testimony:

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

I support 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. This property contains iwi k  puna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi k  puna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jasmine Ikeda

Name: Kaimalie Kamai	Email: kkamai@ke-aupuni-hawaii.org	Zip: 96708
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 7, 2026 @ 10:11 PM
Testimony: I am in full support of RES26-151 APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF CLEAN WATER AND NATURAL LANDS FUNDS TO ACQUIRE A PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT OVER ONE PARCEL OF LAND, TAX MAP KEY: (1) 3-6-023:006 (CPRs 0001-0008) SITUATED IN WAILUPE, O'AHU, HAWAII.		
Name: Matthew Hall	Email: matthall808@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 8, 2026 @ 12:09 AM
Testimony: I am in support of agenda item RES26-151		
Name: Carrie Ann Shiota	Email: cashirota808@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 8, 2026 @ 12:17 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Council Members: I am writing in strong support of Resolution 26-161, a vital measure to secure Clean Water and Natural Lands funding for the permanent protection of the sacred landscape of Wailupe. This effort is not merely a land acquisition for a conservation easement; it is a profound act of restoration for the 'āina and a sacred duty to the iwi kupuna who rest within this pu'uhonua. Inspired by the visionary leadership of Pu'uhonua o Wailupe, my fourteen-year-old son and I recently joined a community workday, immersing ourselves in the ancestral spirit of this place. We were deeply touched by the 'uhane of Wailupe—a spiritual resonance that cannot be captured in books or photographs. We felt the living connection between the land and the stories it carries. Preserving this cultural landscape is essential to honoring iwi kupuna, lineal descendants and cultural practitioners who have stewarded this 'āina. Supporting the acquisition of a conservation easement in Wailupe would demonstrate the City and County of Honolulu's commitment to land stewardship in alignment with Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights and practices. It recognizes that the health of our environment is inseparable from the spiritual well-being of the people and the protection		

of our most sacred sites.

In closing, I respectfully urge you to pass Resolution 26-151 and ensure that Wailupe remains inviolate for future generations.

Mahalo nui,
Carrie Ann Shirota
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Name: Josiah Goode	Email: josiahgoode10@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 8, 2026 @ 06:22 AM

Testimony:

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

I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Josiah Goode

Name: Jules Warech	Email: julie.warech@gmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 8, 2026 @ 06:49 AM

Testimony:

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

I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jules Warech

Name: Elaine Chan	Email: elaine.y.chan623@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 8, 2026 @ 07:55 AM

Testimony:

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

I am Dr. Elaine Chan, MD, and I am obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Hawai'i. More importantly I am a settler serving the people of Hawaii, and I recognize that her majesty Queen Lili'uokalani yielded the Hawaiian Kingdom under duress and protest to the United States to avoid the bloodshed of her people. I recognize that Hawai'i remains an illegally occupied state of America. As a settler, I seek to support the varied strategies that the Indigenous peoples of Hawai'i are using to protect their land and their communities, and I commit to dedicating time and resources to working in solidarity.

I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawaii's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawaii's cultural heritage.

Respectfully,

Elaine Chan, MD

Obstetrician-Gynecologist at Queen's Medical Center

Name: Pualeilani Kamahoahoa	Email: pualeilani2007@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Ka Makani Kaili Koa	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 8, 2026 @ 08:52 AM

Testimony:

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

I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawaii's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151." We are not only residents of this Moku, our family shares the same water source for our on-going survival.

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kupuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kumu Pualeilani Kamahoahoa

Name: Chris Cramer	Email: maunaluafishponds@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 8, 2026 @ 09:18 AM
Name: Carol Gaylord	Email: carol.gaylord@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 8, 2026 @ 09:20 AM

Testimony:

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

I support 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. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Council to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carol Gaylord

Nā Alakaʻi o ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi

Advocates for Native Hawaiian Justice

William S. Richardson School of Law | University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa



**ʻAHAHUI
O HAWAIʻI**

Advocates for Native Hawaiian Justice

Testimony of Nā Alakaʻi o ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi

Before the Committee on Zoning and Planning

Honolulu City Council

Re: Resolution 26-151, Approving the Expenditure of Clean Water and Natural Lands Funds to Acquire a Perpetual Conservation Easement Over TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 (CPRs 0001-0008), Wailupe

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

ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi ("the Hui") respectfully submits this testimony **in strong support of Resolution 26-151.**

We are the alakaʻi of ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi, an organization of law student advocates at the William S. Richardson School of Law. For over fifty years, the Hui has advocated for Native Hawaiian justice in all areas of law, particularly those affecting Native Hawaiian communities, traditional and customary practices, natural and cultural resources, and environmental stewardship.

Resolution 26-151 would authorize the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funds to acquire and permanently protect a conservation easement over TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. We strongly support this measure because it will help ensure the long-term protection of a culturally significant wahi pana containing iwi kūpuna and important historic and cultural resources.

The State of Hawaiʻi has long recognized the importance of preserving Native Hawaiian cultural resources and burial sites. Article XII, Section 7 of the Hawaiʻi Constitution protects traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights, while Article XI, Section 1 affirms the State's obligation to conserve and protect Hawaiʻi's natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The protection of iwi kūpuna and culturally significant places is consistent with these constitutional commitments and with Hawaiʻi's longstanding public policy favoring the preservation of historic and cultural resources.

Permanent protection of this parcel through a conservation easement will help safeguard iwi kūpuna from future disturbance, preserve cultural and historical resources in place, and maintain an important

cultural landscape for future generations. Such protection honors the ‘ike ku‘una, practices, and genealogical connections that continue to bind Native Hawaiian communities to this place.

We commend the efforts of community members and cultural practitioners who have worked tirelessly to protect this site. Resolution 26-151 represents a meaningful opportunity for the City and County of Honolulu to fulfill its stewardship responsibilities and support the permanent preservation of an irreplaceable cultural resource.

For these reasons, ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i respectfully urges the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Nā Alaka‘i o ka ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i

Nā Alaka‘i:

Lenei Sousa Naipo (‘27)

Ka‘ohi Gomera (‘27)

Justice Kaeo Castroverde-Moniz (‘27)

Kalāmanamana Harman (‘28)

Kiana Kekoa (‘28)

Derek Kamakanaaloha Soong (‘27)

Kyson Kainalu James-Foree (‘27)

Taecia K. Akana (‘28)

Sonny Dryden Kuehuikapono Seto Myers (‘28)



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 26-151 CD1

July 9, 2026

10 a.m.

City Council Chambers

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

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 CD1**, to preserve and protect iwi kūpuna 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'uhonua 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 Council's support of the Pu'uhonua o Wailupe's Clean Water Natural Lands application for the purchase of a conservation easement in Wailupe. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



July 8, 2026

Testimony of Pu'uhonua o Wailupe
To the Honolulu City Council
In Support of Reso 26-151

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

My name is Michael Hikalea, and I am the President of Pu'uhonua o Wailupe. I am also a direct lineal descendant of the kūpuna buried in Wailupe, with family ties to this place that extend back generations. I write in strong support of Resolution 26-151 authorizing the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands Funds to acquire a conservation easement over TMK (1) 3-6-023:006.

For our organization, this is about more than protecting open space. It is about ensuring that our kūpuna remain where they were laid to rest and that this sacred place is never again threatened by development. The archaeological work completed on the property confirmed what our families have always known—that Wailupe is a significant cultural landscape with iwi kūpuna, cultural sites, and a history that deserves to be protected with dignity and respect.

Over the past several years, our volunteers, descendants, and community members have dedicated countless hours to caring for this property. We have removed invasive vegetation, restored native plants, monitored the site, did fireproofing, and worked with archaeologists, cultural practitioners, and government agencies to mālama this special place. The conservation easement will ensure these efforts continue while permanently protecting the land from future development.

This resolution is an opportunity for the City to preserve an irreplaceable part of Honolulu's history while fulfilling the purposes of the Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund. It protects important cultural resources, preserves open space, and ensures that future generations will maintain connections to both the land and the history of Wailupe.

On behalf of Pu'uhonua o Wailupe, I respectfully ask for your support of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Michael Hikalea
President
Pu'uhonua o Wailupe



REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8th, 2026 10:00 A.M.

In Support:

RESOLUTION 26-151 – EXPENDITURE FOR A PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT.

Approving the expenditure of Clean Water and Natural Lands funds to acquire a perpetual conservation easement over one parcel of land, Tax Map Key: (1) 3-6-023:006 (CPRs 0001-0008) situated in Wailupe, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i.

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, Floor Leader Kia‘āina and Council Members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for the expenditure for a perpetual conservation easement for the Wailupe Burial Grounds land located at Wiliwilinui Ridge above the former Wailupe Fishpond.

We are in strong support of this effort to permanently preserve this significant Hawaiian burial ground and the iwi kūpuna that rest in the many caves and lava tubes there. This will finally end the disturbances and erasure of Hawaiian culture and history there and provide permanent protection. This funding will allow the threatened iwi kūpuna to continue to be cared for by the descendant organization Pu‘uhonua o Wailupe, in partnership with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

This is the right thing to do and important to pass this kuleana on for the future generations.

Mahalo nui loa,

Chris Cramer

Chris Cramer, Executive Director

Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center