

[Name]

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Testimony of

[Name]

[Title]

[Company]

Before the

[Committee or Deliberative Body Name]

[Hearing Date and Time]

[Hearing Room or Location]

[Bill and Draft Number]

[Bill Summary – Relating To]

Chair [Name], Vice Chair [Name], and Members of the [Committee Name]:

On behalf of [Company or Organization Name] and myself, I am submitting this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of [BILL AND DRAFT NUMBER], relating to [BILL SUMMARY].

[Insert Personalized Testimony]

I am not alone. Nearly eight in ten O'ahu voters support or strongly support the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) plan to restore and create a new community in Hakuone, 30 acres of land in Kaka'ako makai where native Hawaiians once lived, worked, and played.

The land was conveyed to OHA in 2012 in a settlement with the state over unpaid Public Land Trust funds. The state said the settlement was worth \$200 million, but that figure assumed that OHA would be able to include housing in its plan. Indeed, the negotiations that led to the

settlement made clear that additional legislation would be brought forward to lift restrictions on residential development.

Those measures never materialized, leaving untenable strings attached to the historic deal.

Voters broadly believe that OHA should be able to use the land how it sees fit, including for housing: 64 percent of voters said they support repealing the housing restriction. We wholeheartedly agree.

The Hawaiian people are owed the right to create a community that matters to their people and their culture. And unlike the heavy development rising across the street for the past decade, we should prioritize building for locals and Native Hawaiians rather than foreign and out-of-state investors.

Hakuone will improve the quality of life for locals and Native Hawaiians: a source of abundance and pride for our lāhui, and a place that embodies a Hawaiian national identity while defining and maintaining a Hawaiian sense of place for the families and people who live here. Hakuone will be a cultural gathering place, a kīpuka – an oasis – for the Hawaiian community in urban Honolulu.

Hawai'i's leaders and lawmakers have made significant strides in recent years to make up for past injustices and provide more robust resources and support for our indigenous peoples. Further, coming out of the pandemic, it is clear that the needs and dreams of our local people should be of paramount priority in planning for the future.

I urge you to pass [BILL AND DRAFT NUMBER] and finally clear the way for OHA and its partners to build a special community gathering place that welcomes all people, from keiki to kupuna, and honors its historic sense of place, Hawaiian cultural values, and our unique island lifestyle for present and future generations.