



Sample Testimony

Formal Testimony

Here is an [example template for businesses or organizations](#). You can use your company or organization letterhead and upload the document directly.

Quick Testimony

You can type a simple message into the testimony form in the following format:

My name is [Name] and I strongly support SB736 and HB270. I am a resident of [Neighborhood] and I am native Hawaiian/support the native Hawaiian people. SB736 and HB270 will finally allow OHA to realize the promised value of its land in Kaka'ako Makai, and allow the vision of Hakuone to move forward: a community geared toward local residents, infused with Hawaiian history, culture and values. Given everything that has already been conceded to outside developers and foreign investors, Hawaiians deserve the opportunity to use this land as they see fit, to create an open, accessible, and sustainable local oasis in the heart of Honolulu.

Points of Personalization

It's best to open with your unique, personal point of view. Share your memories of Kaka'ako, Honolulu, or Hawai'i. Describe your connection to the local community and to the 'aina. Tell our Legislators why Hakuone is important to you, as well as to the wider community. Here are some starting points:

- The Kaka'ako you remember, compared to the Kaka'ako we have, and what Kaka'ako could be.
- The need for affordable housing, for native Hawaiians and all who call Hawai'i home.
- Land used to pay a debt to Hawaiians should not come with strings attached.
- What an ideal neighborhood looks like, and how Hakuone can embody that vision.
- The state's promises to native Hawaiians, compared to what has been delivered.
- What Hawaiian culture has contributed to the world, and why it must be perpetuated.

Key Points

You can base your testimony on the following statements, if they are meaningful to you or if you can customize expand upon them. Again, original testimony is more valuable than fully cut-and-paste testimony.

Hakuone will honor the past and elevate Hawaiian culture and values. It's by Hawaiians and will be designed and built with local talent, prioritizing local needs. It's time that we stop letting outside developers and foreign investors call the shots, and let Native Hawaiians do what's best for Hawai'i.

It is time for Native Hawaiians to be honored for who they are and their fundamental contributions to these islands. The Hawaiian people deserve the right to create a community that's rooted in their culture and supports their people. The state owes it to the Hawaiian people to finally do right by them.

The heart of any community is its people. To realize the full "live, work, play" vision of Hakuone, people have to be able to live there. The law that bans residential development in Kakaako makai must be repealed. Residential units were key to the \$200 million valuation of the land, and are critical to ensure Hakuone is sustainable and successful.

All of Hawai'i is today unified in recognizing the need for more housing. Native Hawaiians are being disproportionately displaced by the high cost of living in their own homeland. Hakuone will offer a full spectrum of housing options, including affordable and workforce housing, to allow our people to live and thrive on the 'aina.

Kaka'ako Makai today is barely a shadow of what it could be. Restrictions placed on this land are both damaging and unfair. Don't single out land owned and stewarded by Hawaiians, especially when their culture demands that they take a long-term view of protecting the land, and when luxury developments are freely approved just across the street.

Examples & Inspiration

The following letters, articles, and essays may provide ideas for your own testimony.

[Kaka'ako Makai intent in 2012 needs to become reality in 2023](#)

[Allow OHA to develop Kaka'ako Makai](#)

[To Honor the Past and Elevate Hawaiian Culture and Values](#)