

# Agriculture, Diversification, Environment, & Public Transportation Committee on 2025-03-20 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 03-20-25 09:00

## eComments Report

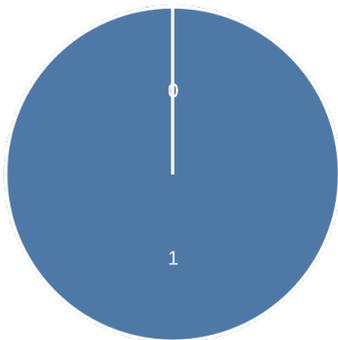
Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Agriculture, Diversification, Environment, & Public Transportation Committee on 2025-03-20 9:00 AM	03-20-25 09:00	2	1	1	0	0

### Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment

Support (100%) Oppose (0%) Neutral (0%)  
No Response (0%)



# Agriculture, Diversification, Environment, & Public Transportation Committee on 2025-03-20 9:00 AM

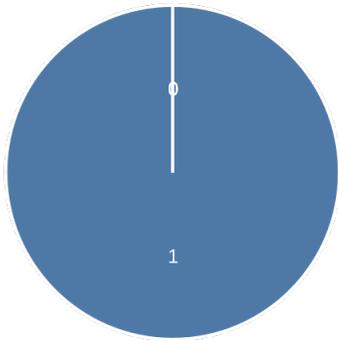
03-20-25 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	1	1	0	0

## Sentiments for All Agenda Items

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

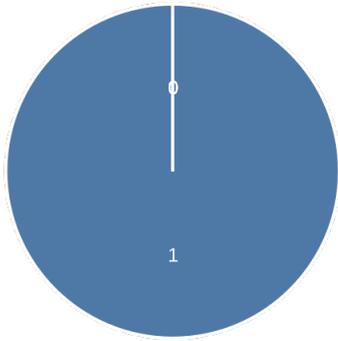
### Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment

Support (100%) Oppose (0%) Neutral (0%)  
No Response (0%)



**Axel Beers**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:13pm 03-18-25

Testimony in support of Resolution 25-54 is attached and submitted on behalf of the testifier, at their request due to technical difficulties.

Aloha my name is Brandi Corpuz and I am from the wetlands of Kula Kai. Surrounded by the Waipuilani and Kulanihakoi wetlands I am in a unique position to be able to see what could be the benefit of these precious resources first hand.

1. Hawaiian history and culture tells us that these wetland areas were thriving food hubs serving in an ahupua'a system where the waters from uplands were used to feed the plants and fishponds below. These wetlands served to provide life to our muliwai, punawai, ocean, marine life and now are the main cause of destruction of our homes, streets, bridges, businesses and way of life. We can either work with mother nature or we can be destroyed by her.
2. It has now been realized worldwide that wetlands are needed to survive in this world we live in. We have destroyed most of our wetlands in Hawaii and South Maui is no exception. I have witnessed many native birds, plants and marine life become endangered right before my eyes. If we don't protect our last remaining wetlands then the endangered species will become extinct and our ecosystem functions will too.
3. What good is our wetlands overlay map if we don't have rules that dictate what and how these Maui codes are carried out? Did we waste our time creating a map for protection when there really are no protections at all?
4. As of this date, the Maui County Conservation Planning Committee has not made any recommendations. There are also no environmental County employees or experts to advise on best practices for our threatened wetlands. We must hire "local" environmental experts and "local" nonprofits to oversee this process, otherwise we are doing the opposite of what this wetlands overlay map intended in its creation.

Please know that as a very active community member and Executive Director of a nonprofit working in Kula Kai, I have advocated for wetlands protections with state and county government officials, our community and stakeholders and many nonprofits and small business owners since the creation of our wetlands overlay map. Thousands of hours have been spent to protect our last remaining wetlands and now it comes back to you to add the next layer of protection. You have the power to protect or destroy our last remaining ecological safe guards. These last remaining wetlands are struggling but can be restored and can be the difference between a thriving ecosystem or total destruction of it.

Just a reminder of what is at stake here. In my ahupua'a of Waiohuli Kai, I have personally seen many endangered and threatened species in our small wetland features that are left in this area. I have also recently seen landowners destroy over 20 acres of threatened species habitats with no regard for the wetlands, endangered species or what their actions cause.

Here are some of our endangered wetland species:

1. 'Alae ke'oke'o- Hawaiian Coot (endemic and endangered)
2. Koloa- Hawaiian duck (endemic and considered the most endangered duck in the world)
3. Ae'o-Hawaiian Stilt (endemic and endangered)

4. Blackburns Spinx Moth-Hawaiian tobacco moth- (endemic and endangered) due to the destruction of habitat. Once was thought to be extinct)
5. 'Ope'ape'a- Hawaiian Hoary Bat (endemic and endangered)
6. Auku'u- Black Crowned Night Heron (indigenous and threatened)
7. Kolea- Pacific Golden Plover (migrate to the same wetland every year)

There are also many other types of plants and marine life that need our wetlands to survive. Without our wetlands they will disappear as well. Some of these are already threatened due to lack of habitat from over development, pesticides, mud and silt from flooding and diversion of the wai's natural path. Wetland plants include akulekule, Kipukai, Puhuehue, Native sedges and many forms of limu such as the limu Wawae'iole and limu Lipoa that once thrived in Kula Kai and all around Hawaii. We also need to include the many native fish and sea urchins who need fresh water as well as clean ocean water.

We need to protect the mauka wetlands, as well as makai wetlands in order to save all of these Hawaiian endangered species. The dangers are clear and unmistakable. If we dont protect our wetlands right now from Mauka to Makai, then so much of our resources will be lost forever.

The way we do this is to recognize all of our wetlands, no matter what property they are on. Please pass Resolution 25-54

<https://mauicounty.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=13930097&GUID=67CEB52E-73C0-4A0B-BDE5-8AD0353CF497>

We must stop land owners and developers from owning the rights to our water, gulches and from diversions and destruction of all the wetlands we have left. We see the cascading effects already and the ecological impacts are known around the world and within our communities. Please put the protections into place now before we lose anymore of our precious natural resources.

Please adopt this resolution so that future generations will be able to enjoy our natural resources, our endangered Hawaiian wetlands creatures and features and so we can find best practice solutions to our flooding and fire hazards.

Sincerely, Brandi Corpuz