Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-06-02 1:30 PM

Meeting Time: 06-02-26 13:30

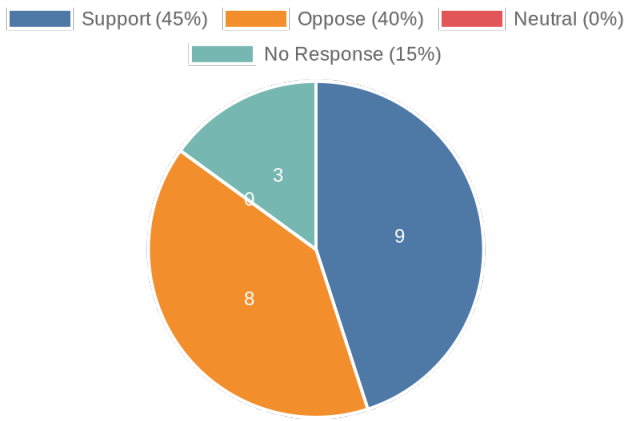
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-06-02 1:30 PM	06-02-26 13:30	15	20	9	8	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



Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-06-02 1:30 PM

06-02-26 13:30

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
GREAT-10(3) Reso 25-215 RESOLUTION 25-215, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON THE NOTICE AND CONDUCT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS (GREAT-10(3))	3	0	2	0
GREAT-10(4) Reso 25-216 RESOLUTION 25-216, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON STANDARDIZING DEADLINES RELATED TO VOTER INITIATIVE, RECALL, AND CHARTER AMENDMENTS (GREAT-10(4))	1	1	0	0
GREAT-10(7) Reso 26-61 RESOLUTION 26-61, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON THE PROCESSING OF CLAIMS (GREAT-10(7))	1	0	1	0
GREAT-10(6) Reso 26-11 RESOLUTION 26-11, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON COUNTY COUNCIL VACANCIES IN OFFICE (GREAT-10(6))	1	1	0	0
GREAT-10(9) Reso 26-86 RESOLUTION 26-86, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE STAGGERED TERM SYSTEM FOR MEMBERS OF THE COST OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION (GREAT-10(9))	1	1	0	0
GREAT-10(10) Reso 26-87 RESOLUTION 26-87, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH A CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCY REVOLVING FUND (GREAT-10(10))	9	5	2	0
GREAT-10(2) Reso 24-100 RESOLUTION 24-100, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON USES OF THE OPEN SPACE, NATURAL RESOURCES, CULTURAL RESOURCES, AND SCENIC VIEWS PRESERVATION FUND (GREAT-10(2))	1	0	1	0
GREAT-10(13) Reso 26-93 RESOLUTION 26-93, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO SIMPLIFY THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND DISSOLVE THE INDEPENDENT NOMINATION BOARD (GREAT-10(13))	1	1	0	0
GREAT-10(11) Reso 26-88 RESOLUTION 26-88, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS (GREAT-10(11))	1	0	1	0
GREAT-10(12) Reso 26-89 RESOLUTION 26-89, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS (GREAT-10(12))	1	0	1	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

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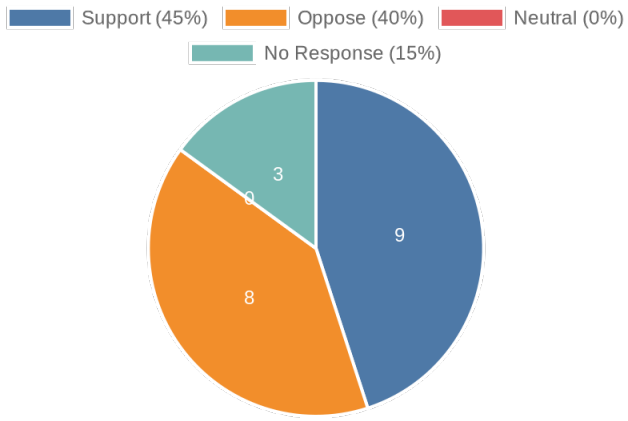
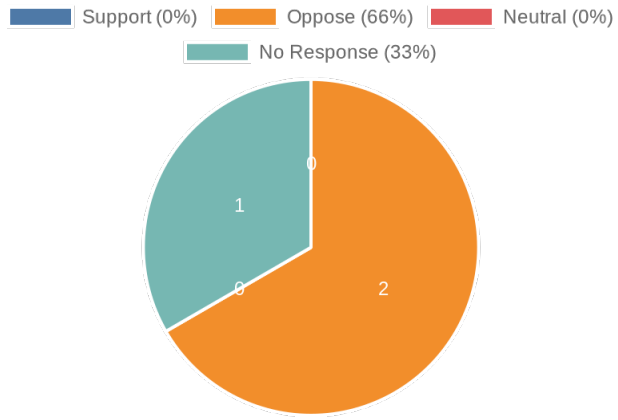
Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-10(3) Reso 25-215 RESOLUTION 25-215, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON THE NOTICE AND CONDUCT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS (GREAT-10(3))

Overall Sentiment



Robin Knox
Location:
Submitted At: 9:16am 06-02-26

Proposed amendment is not clear on what will replace public notice in a newspaper. I believe a durable and

easily accessible non-digital record of public notice should be maintained.

Great Committee
Location:
Submitted At: 12:23pm 06-01-26

Testimony received from GREAT Committee as of 11:20 a.m.

Edward Codelia
Location:
Submitted At: 7:24pm 05-31-26

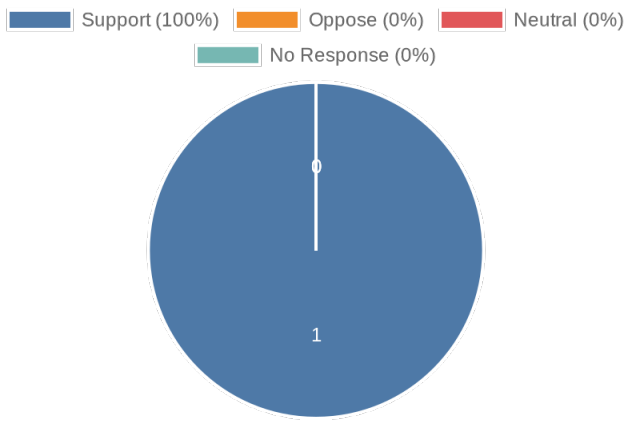
I support modernization of government notice requirements, but I do not support reducing public awareness or public participation. Eliminating newspaper publication requirements and relying more heavily on online notices may make it more difficult for some residents, particularly k_puna and those with limited internet access, to remain informed about County government activities.

Before changing long-standing notice requirements, the Council should demonstrate that alternative methods will increase public engagement rather than reduce it. Transparency is not achieved simply by posting information online; it is achieved when residents actually receive and understand the information.

These positions create a consistent theme: oppose expansion of spending authority, dedicated funds, and administrative control; support accountability, measurable outcomes, and public oversight.

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-10(4) Reso 25-216 RESOLUTION 25-216, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON STANDARDIZING DEADLINES RELATED TO VOTER INITIATIVE, RECALL, AND CHARTER AMENDMENTS (GREAT-10(4))

Overall Sentiment

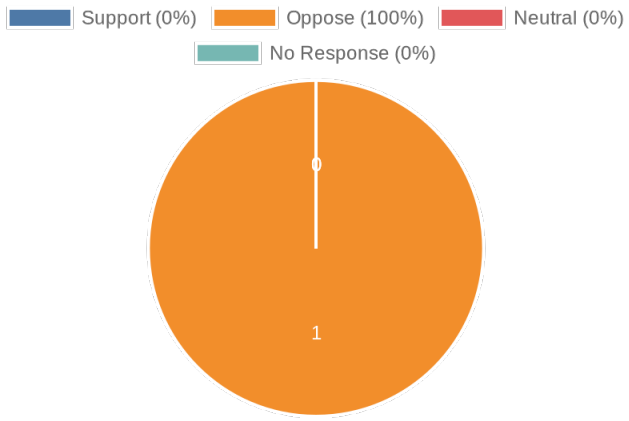


Robin Knox
Location:
Submitted At: 9:17am 06-02-26

Support to avoid confusion and appearance of election interference

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-10(7) Reso 26-61 RESOLUTION 26-61, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON THE PROCESSING OF CLAIMS (GREAT-10(7))

Overall Sentiment

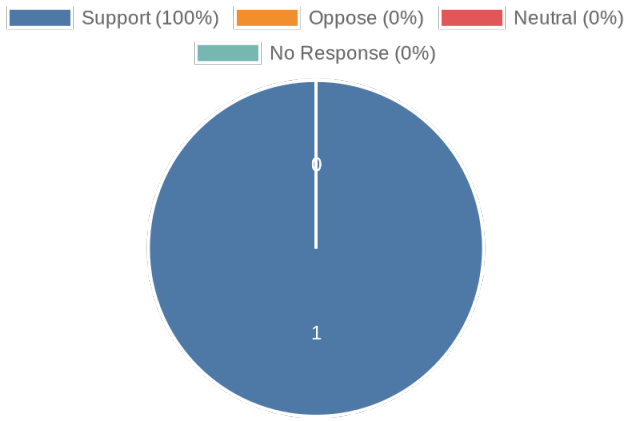


Robin Knox
Location:
Submitted At: 9:19am 06-02-26

We simply do not have a trust worthy Office of Corporation Counsel which is needed to ensure fair and impartial processing of claims

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-10(6) Reso 26-11 RESOLUTION 26-11, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON COUNTY COUNCIL VACANCIES IN OFFICE (GREAT-10(6))

Overall Sentiment

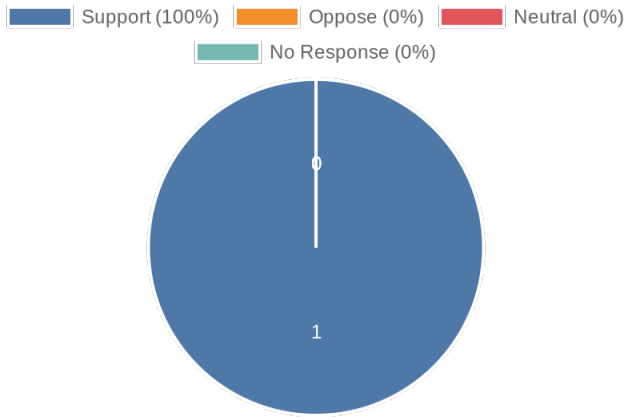


Robin Knox
Location:
Submitted At: 9:20am 06-02-26

The people should have an opportunity to choose the Council Member

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-10(9) Reso 26-86 RESOLUTION 26-86, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE STAGGERED TERM SYSTEM FOR MEMBERS OF THE COST OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION (GREAT-10(9))

Overall Sentiment

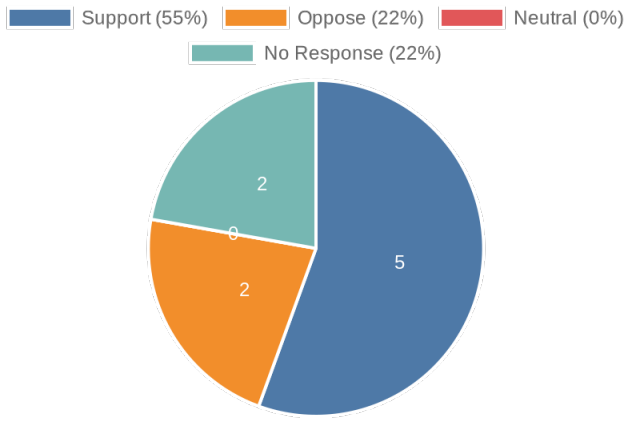


Robin Knox
Location:
Submitted At: 9:21am 06-02-26

important to have continuity

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-10(10) Reso 26-87 RESOLUTION 26-87, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH A CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCY REVOLVING FUND (GREAT-10(10))

Overall Sentiment



Guest User
Location:
Submitted At: 3:39pm 06-02-26

Aloha,
My name is Kaleo Demello from Waiohuli. I work in Waiohuli Kai with '_inak_ko'a on the wetland, waterways, and shoreline from Kelpolepo to Waipuilani. It's not a mystery "K_hei" has had problems with flooding and ocean water quality years before this recent storm. But maybe now more people will see and understand that Maui in a whole needs responsible and long term solutions to protect our infrastructure and natural resources. Currently our groups is focus on wetland stewardship and invasive removals, and at the same time our efforts help with disaster functions. I'd like to see more efforts throughout Maui in restoring and protecting our fragile resources, coastlines, and water quality. With added funds to support these kinds of projects, we can cover more ground with more hands and try to restore and maintain our mountains to oceans, which in return will produce more livable conditions and food security for the future.
Mahalo

Guest User
Location:
Submitted At: 1:00pm 06-02-26

Aloha, Councilmembers ..

I humbly ask that you support Resolution 26-87 .. proposing the creation of a Climate Action and Resilience Revolving Fund..

This Resolution is so very important to the islands of the County of Maui .. there are so many projects that we need to address immediately to include..

- o walkable and bikeable complete streets .. (especially in the Kihei area) ..
- o wetlands stewardship ..

o nature-based shoreline management solutions ..
o disaster readiness ..
o invasive species removal..
o community gardens ..

these are just a few of the many projects that this Resolution will address ..

again .. thank you for listening and ..
I humbly ask that you please support Resolution 26-87 ..

aloha from a grateful kupuna..

adele rugg :-}
808 879 9964

Guest User
Location:
Submitted At: 11:17am 06-02-26

Aloha Chair and members of the Council,
My name is Cristina De Leon, and I am testifying in strong support of Resolution 26-87.
Maui County cannot afford to continue treating climate resilience as an optional or future priority. We are already experiencing the impacts of climate change through drought, wildfire risk, flooding, coastal erosion, rising costs of living, and strain on our infrastructure and natural resources.
The funds set aside by resolution 26-87 can be used to consistently invest in solutions instead of reacting only after disasters occur. This is a practical and forward-thinking approach that helps protect our people, environment, economy, and future generations.
I especially support the bill's use of transient accommodations tax revenue to fund resilience projects. Visitors benefit from Maui's natural beauty and infrastructure, and it makes sense that a portion of those revenues be reinvested into protecting the very resources that sustain our islands and economy.
This fund can help support projects like wildfire mitigation, water security, clean energy, shoreline protection, waste reduction, disaster preparedness, and community resilience initiatives.
The cost of inaction will always be greater than the cost of preparation.
Please pass resolution 26-87 and demonstrate that Maui County is committed to protecting its communities, cultural resources, and environment with long-term, accountable funding.
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Great Committee
Location:
Submitted At: 10:31am 06-02-26

Testimonies received from GREAT Committee as of 6/2/2026 10:30 a.m.

Robin Knox
Location:
Submitted At: 9:22am 06-02-26

If we don't establish a funding source, the plan is useless.

Genesis S young
Location:
Submitted At: 9:44pm 06-01-26

I support a permanent Funding mechanism for the climate action and resiliency program we need put money aside to support CARP plan that we have put in place - otherwise it is meaningless. money will never be spent on climate action Unless we create a permanent fund now because there many important ways to spend our county money including our housing problems however our climate and environmental problems will destroy ultimately our quality of life and our tourism industry and our real estate industry and pretty much everything And we just don't give enough importance to this long term issue on a day to day basis The only way this will happen is if we fund the CARP plan that we have created and it is important this money be reserved for uses that are within that

jurisdiction and that there be accountability and transparency with this money and this is always necessary with how you spend our tax dollars. Mahalo Genesis

Guest User
Location:
Submitted At: 9:41pm 06-01-26

I respectfully oppose Resolution 26-87.

I appreciate and support many of the goals discussed by supporters of this resolution. Protecting our environment, improving disaster preparedness, restoring native ecosystems, reducing wildfire risk, protecting our shorelines, and planning for future challenges are all important responsibilities of government.

However, this resolution is not a vote on any one of those projects.

This resolution would create a permanent funding mechanism that automatically diverts public money into a dedicated Climate Action and Resilience Revolving Fund. That distinction matters.

Supporters have highlighted a long list of worthy projects that could potentially be funded. But the question before this Committee is not whether those projects sound beneficial. The question is whether taxpayers should permanently set aside a portion of County revenues outside of the normal budget process.

Every year, the Council reviews competing priorities. Housing, roads, water infrastructure, public safety, parks, emergency management, wildfire mitigation, wastewater systems, and environmental protection all compete for limited public resources. That process requires elected officials to justify spending decisions publicly and allows residents to evaluate whether priorities are being properly funded.

If climate-related projects are truly among the County's highest priorities, they should be able to compete successfully through the annual budget process just like every other County function.

I am also concerned about accountability.

Supporters reference more than 100 projects identified in the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan. That raises important questions.

Which projects receive funding first?

Who decides?

What objective measurements determine success?

What happens when projects fail to produce measurable results?

How much money will be spent on administration, planning, consultants, studies, and reports versus actual implementation?

The public deserves answers before establishing a permanent funding stream.

I am particularly concerned about references to relocation planning for areas impacted by sea level rise and climate change. Residents deserve a transparent public discussion regarding what that means. Are we discussing public facilities, private property, voluntary relocation programs, future buyouts, or restrictions on rebuilding? Those conversations should occur openly before creating a dedicated funding mechanism.

Maui County faces many urgent challenges today. Residents are struggling with housing affordability, rising insurance costs, aging infrastructure, traffic congestion, water system needs, and recovery from recent disasters. Future Councils should retain the flexibility to evaluate priorities each year rather than having increasing portions of County revenue automatically directed into dedicated funds.

I support environmental stewardship. I support disaster preparedness. I support protecting our natural resources.

What I do not support is removing significant public funds from the annual budget process and placing them into a dedicated fund without stronger accountability, performance standards, and public oversight.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reject Resolution 26-87.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Renee Kaiama

Guest User
Location:
Submitted At: 5:01pm 06-01-26

June 1 2026

VIA EMAIL: hannah@wildhawaii.org
Hawai_i Wildlife Fund

To: The Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency (GREAT) Committee

Re: In strong support of RESO 26-87 Proposed Charter Amendment

Aloha Chair Batangan, Vice-Chair U_u-Hodgins and esteemed members:

As Director and co-founder of Hawai_i Wildlife Fund and the Hawai'i Wildlife Discovery Center in K__anapali, I am writing to wholeheartedly support RESO 26-87, a Resolution which proposes the creation of a Climate Action and Resilience Revolving Fund.

Hawai_i Wildlife Fund is a 501©3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of Hawai'i's native marine life through research, education and habitat restoration, founded in 1996 by two former National Marine Fisheries Service scientists, myself and Bill Gilmartin. We have headquarters on Hawai_i Island and Maui and are powered by our communities and volunteers to recover the thriving health of our nearshore ecosystems and protected wildlife. We have worked for 30 years to protect Hawai_i's native wildlife and restore sensitive habitat. For the last decade, every year, operating under state and federal research permits, we have had to translocate sea turtle nests mauka because of sea level rise.

This Charter amendment would allocate 20% of the annual transient accommodations tax, minimum, to the Fund annually (using projections for the upcoming fiscal year, this would be about $13 million annually). Additional money could be added to this Revolving Fund, which must be used to implement projects identified in our County's Climate Action and Resiliency Plan.

The CARP is codified in our County due to legislation previously introduced by CM Johnson. It is the County's official plan for climate action and is required by law to be regularly updated and tracked. A list of all action items identified in the CARP, and which could be funded by a CARP Revolving Fund, is available online, listing more than 100 projects.
Here are some examples:
• composting facilities,
• waste-to-energy,
• wastewater reuse,
• curbside recycling and green waste pickup,
• walkable and bikeable complete streets,
• community gardens,

• wetland stewardship,
• invasive species removal,
• nature-based shoreline management solutions,
• evacuation route planning and implementation,
• relocation planning for culturally sensitive areas at risk of sea level rise and climate change impacts,
• green workforce development and education and
• disaster readiness.

As you know, these projects are critically important for a livable and resilient future where we play our role in regenerating the environment and sequestering carbon. While some councilmembers have expressed concerns about setting aside this funding, we believe that in a $1.6-billion County budget, setting aside money for climate action is a smart and reasonable thing to do.

These projects preserve and regenerate the land, water, and nature; support resiliency; and increase our quality of life among many things—these are the kinds of investments that are foundational and support the many other funding priorities in our County such as economic diversification and safe affordable housing. Because the CARP and uses of the Fund would need to be tracked using the dashboard, this also increases transparency and accountability in our County spending.

On behalf of Hawai_i Wildlife Fund and the Hawai_i Wildlife Discovery Center, I wholeheartedly endorse Reso 26-87 in order to support funding the CARP.

Mahalo for your consideration and continued progress in protecting our environment,

Hannah Bernard
Executive Director
Hawai_i Wildlife Fund
Hawai_i Wildlife Discovery Center

Edward Codelia
Location:
Submitted At: 7:13pm 05-31-26

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO RESOLUTION 26-87

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH A CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCY REVOLVING FUND

Chair Batangan and Members of the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee,

My name is Edward Codelia, a resident of Kula, Maui, REALTOR®, small business owner, and survivor of the August 2023 Maui wildfires. I am in opposition to Resolution 26-87 as currently drafted.

I support responsible wildfire mitigation, disaster preparedness, infrastructure resilience, water security, and practical environmental stewardship. However, I do not support placing a permanent Charter mandate on future taxpayers requiring that at least 20 percent of Maui County's Transient Accommodations Tax revenues be automatically diverted into a revolving fund without clearly defining how the money will be spent, measured, audited, and reported to the public.

This proposal creates a dedicated funding stream before identifying specific projects, timelines, performance benchmarks, or accountability measures.

The proposed fund may be used for County programs, grants and loans to nonprofit organizations, leveraging outside funding sources, and even acquisition and management planning of real property.

These categories are broad enough to encompass an almost unlimited range of activities. Residents are effectively being asked to approve a funding mechanism first and trust that future councils, administrations, consultants, and nonprofit organizations will determine how the money is ultimately spent.

Further, the resolution allows all unencumbered balances to remain in the fund indefinitely and accumulate from year to year.

Maui County already faces significant challenges involving housing affordability, wildfire recovery, emergency preparedness, infrastructure maintenance, road repairs, drainage systems, water infrastructure, wastewater capacity, and public safety. Future elected officials should retain flexibility to prioritize emerging needs rather than being constrained by an ever-growing collection of protected special funds.

If wildfire mitigation is truly the objective, then the Council should identify specific projects and funding needs, including:

- Vegetation and fuel-load reduction.
- Firebreak construction and maintenance.
- Water system hardening and redundancy.
- Emergency communication systems.
- Evacuation route improvements.
- Fire station construction and staffing.
- Wildfire detection and monitoring systems.
- Utility infrastructure improvements.

Those are tangible projects the public can evaluate and measure.

Instead, this proposal creates a broad funding mechanism without establishing objective standards for success, independent performance audits, spending caps, grant limitations, or measurable outcomes.

Before advancing this measure to the ballot, I respectfully request answers to the following questions:

How much Maui County TAT revenue would have been deposited into this fund during Fiscal Year 2026?
How much revenue is projected to be diverted into this fund over the next five years and ten years?
What percentage of the fund may be awarded to nonprofit organizations?
What percentage of the fund may be spent on consultants, studies, planning documents, and administrative overhead?
What independent audit requirements will exist beyond standard County accounting practices?
What measurable performance standards will be used to determine whether the fund is successfully improving resilience?
How many acres of fuel reduction, miles of firebreaks, water system improvements, or emergency preparedness projects are expected to be completed annually?
Why should this funding requirement be embedded in the County Charter rather than evaluated annually through the normal budget process?
Why should future councils be required to dedicate a minimum percentage of TAT revenues regardless of future economic conditions or community priorities?
What safeguards exist to prevent this fund from becoming a vehicle for consultant contracts, nonprofit grants, and land acquisitions that may have little connection to actual wildfire prevention or community resilience?
Has the Council prepared an estimate of how much funding would be unavailable for housing, infrastructure, public safety, water, and other County priorities as a result of this mandatory dedication?
Why should voters approve a permanent funding mandate before seeing a detailed project list, budget plan, implementation schedule, and independent oversight structure?

Maui residents deserve transparency, accountability, and measurable outcomes before being asked to dedicate a significant portion of County tax revenues to a new revolving fund.

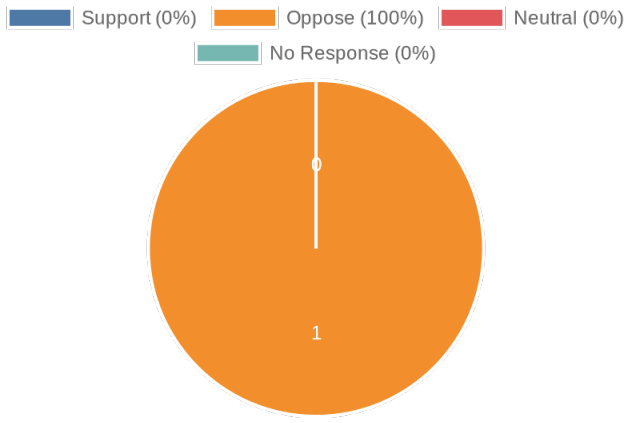
For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reject Resolution 26-87 as drafted or substantially amend it to include strict spending limitations, independent audits, annual reporting requirements, and project-specific accountability measures before placing it before the voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Edward Codelia
Kula, Maui
Resident, REALTOR®, and Small Business Owner

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-10(2) Reso 24-100 RESOLUTION 24-100, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON USES OF THE OPEN SPACE, NATURAL RESOURCES, CULTURAL RESOURCES, AND SCENIC VIEWS PRESERVATION FUND (GREAT-10(2))

Overall Sentiment

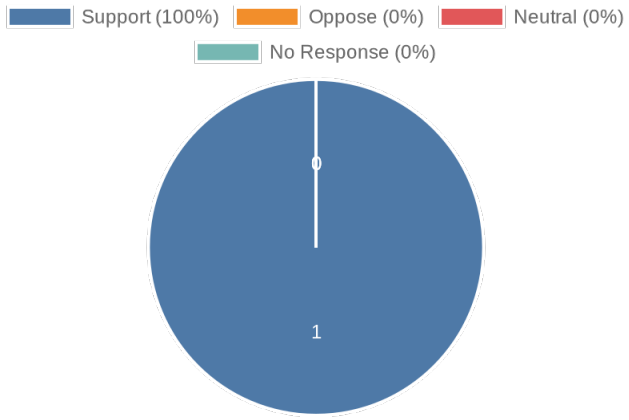


Robin Knox
Location:
Submitted At: 9:26am 06-02-26

I oppose this measure. I would support a measure that 1) does not use the fund to remove fuel load from private property; and 2) is part of an overall stewardship of public lands, for instance restoration of native vegetation. I support use of these funds for the County to purchase lands that will increase resilience or mitigate hazards (such as buying and restoring wetlands and flood plains)

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-10(13) Reso 26-93 RESOLUTION 26-93, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO SIMPLIFY THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND DISSOLVE THE INDEPENDENT NOMINATION BOARD (GREAT-10(13))

Overall Sentiment



Edward Codelia
Location:
Submitted At: 7:16pm 05-31-26

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION 26-93

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO SIMPLIFY THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND DISSOLVE THE INDEPENDENT NOMINATION BOARD

Chair Batangan and Members of the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee,

My name is Edward Codelia, a resident of Kula, Maui, REALTOR®, and small business owner.

I am in support of Resolution 26-93, which would eliminate the Independent Nomination Board and return appointment responsibilities to the Mayor and County Council.

When voters approved the creation of the Independent Nomination Board, the public was led to believe it would increase transparency, improve the quality of appointments, reduce favoritism, encourage broader public participation, and restore confidence in government.

Several years later, I believe it is fair to ask whether those promises have been fulfilled.

In my observation, the Independent Nomination Board has not demonstrated measurable improvements in transparency, efficiency, public trust, or appointment quality. Instead, it appears to have created another layer of government bureaucracy between applicants and the elected officials who are ultimately accountable to the voters.

The public was promised independence. However, independence alone does not guarantee accountability.

An unelected board is not inherently more transparent, more qualified, or less susceptible to favoritism than elected officials. In fact, when appointment decisions are filtered through an unelected body, accountability becomes more difficult because voters cannot remove members of the Independent Nomination Board through an election.

If favoritism exists, it is not solved by moving influence from one group of decision-makers to another. Favoritism remains favoritism whether it originates from elected officials or from an unelected screening body.

The County should not maintain an additional layer of government simply because the concept sounds good. It should exist only if it produces measurable public benefits.

To date, I have not seen evidence that the Independent Nomination Board has significantly improved government performance, increased public confidence, reduced vacancies, or enhanced the quality of appointments.

Before this Charter amendment advances, I respectfully request answers to the following questions:

What measurable improvements has the Independent Nomination Board produced since its creation?
How many appointments have been improved because of the Board's involvement?
How many vacancies have been filled faster because of the Board?
Has the Board increased public participation in the appointment process?
Has the Board increased the number of applicants for boards and commissions?
What objective evidence exists that public confidence in government has increased because of the Board?
What metrics were established when the Board was created, and has the Board met those goals?
Has the Board reduced favoritism, or has it simply transferred appointment influence from elected officials to an unelected body?
What accountability mechanism exists when residents disagree with decisions made by the Independent Nomination Board?
How are potential conflicts of interest identified and disclosed among Board members?
Has the County conducted a formal performance review of the Board since its creation?
What is the annual administrative cost associated with operating the Independent Nomination Board?
How many appointments have been delayed as a result of the additional review process?
What evidence demonstrates that applicants selected through this process are more qualified than those selected under the previous system?
If the Board has been successful, where is the data proving that success?

While I support Resolution 26-93, I also believe the County should strengthen transparency within the appointment process itself. If the Independent Nomination Board is dissolved, residents should be able to see who applied, what qualifications applicants possess, how appointments are evaluated, and whether conflicts of interest exist.

Government should be judged by results, not intentions.

If an additional layer of government cannot demonstrate measurable value, improved outcomes, or enhanced public confidence, it should be reconsidered.

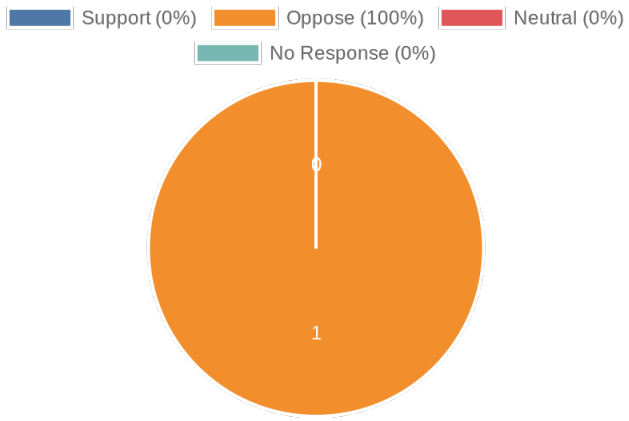
For these reasons, I respectfully support Resolution 26-93 and encourage the Committee to advance the measure for voter consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Edward Codelia

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-10(11) Reso 26-88 RESOLUTION 26-88, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS (GREAT-10(11))

Overall Sentiment



Edward Codelia
Location:
Submitted At: 7:18pm 05-31-26

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO RESOLUTION 26-88

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS

Chair Batangan and Members of the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee,

My name is Edward Codelia, a resident of Kula, Maui, REALTOR®, small business owner, and survivor of the August 2023 wildfires.

I am opposed to Resolution 26-88 as currently drafted.

The County's experience following the Maui wildfires demonstrated the importance of having emergency response capabilities. It also demonstrated the importance of transparency, oversight, accountability, and public confidence whenever extraordinary spending authority is granted.

This resolution would expand the County's ability to utilize emergency appropriations and access a line of credit while exempting certain emergency funds from existing limitations. While flexibility may be necessary during genuine emergencies, flexibility without strong oversight creates risk.

The public deserves to know not only how emergency funds are spent, but also why they are spent, who authorized the spending, what alternatives were considered, and what measurable outcomes were achieved.

Every emergency power granted today will eventually be exercised by future administrations that may not share the same priorities or standards.

The Charter should not be amended simply to make spending easier. It should be amended only when safeguards are equally strengthened.

Before advancing this measure, I respectfully request answers to the following questions:

What specific problem is this Charter amendment attempting to solve?
Has the County ever been unable to respond to a legitimate emergency because of the current Charter language?
What emergencies prompted this proposal?
What is the maximum line of credit that could be authorized under this amendment?
What safeguards would prevent excessive borrowing?
Would public hearings be required before emergency borrowing occurs?
How quickly would the public be notified of emergency appropriations?
What reporting requirements would apply after emergency funds are spent?
Will independent audits be required for all emergency expenditures?
What lessons learned from the 2023 wildfire response support this proposal?
How much emergency funding has been spent by Maui County since August 2023?
How much of that spending has undergone independent audit review?
What mechanisms exist to prevent misuse of emergency declarations for non-emergency purposes?
How will taxpayers know whether borrowed funds achieved their intended purpose?
Why is additional authority needed before the County provides a complete accounting of prior emergency spending?

The public has witnessed extraordinary emergency spending, emergency procurement, emergency contracts, and emergency powers over the past several years.

Before expanding those authorities further, the County should first demonstrate that existing emergency authorities have been exercised transparently, effectively, and with full accountability to the public.

Maui residents deserve confidence that emergency powers remain temporary, limited, transparent, and subject to meaningful oversight.

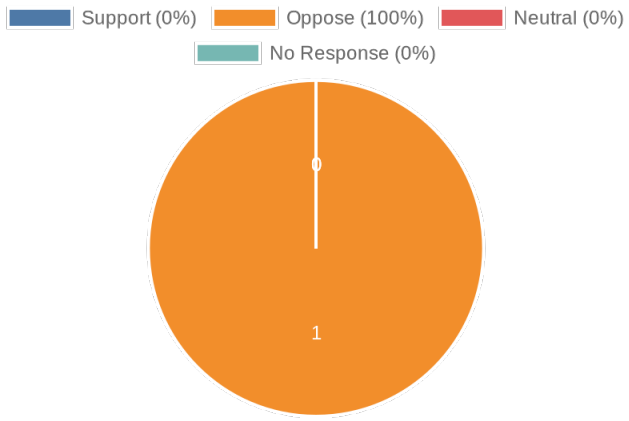
For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reject Resolution 26-88 or substantially amend it to include mandatory public reporting, independent audits, borrowing limitations, and enhanced Council oversight.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Edward Codelia
Kula, Maui
Resident, REALTOR®

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-10(12) Reso 26-89 RESOLUTION 26-89, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS (GREAT-10(12))

Overall Sentiment



Edward Codelia
Location:
Submitted At: 7:21pm 05-31-26

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO RESOLUTION 26-89

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS

Chair Batangan and Members of the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee,

My name is Edward Codelia, a resident of Kula, Maui, REALTOR®, and small business owner.

I am opposed to Resolution 26-89 as currently drafted.

The County budget is one of the most important policy documents adopted each year. It reflects public testimony, committee review, Council deliberation, and elected officials' decisions regarding community priorities.

This proposal would amend the Charter to allow the Mayor to transfer appropriations within departments, while leaving the actual limits and procedures to be determined later by ordinance.

The administration's transmittal memo provides virtually no evidence that the current Charter language is causing operational problems. It simply states that the amendment would allow transfers and that limits would be established later.

That raises a fundamental question:

Why should voters approve a Charter amendment before knowing the limits of the authority being granted?

The Charter should define authority first and flexibility second.

If departments need additional flexibility, the administration should demonstrate:

What projects were delayed.
What services were impacted.
How much money needed to be transferred.
Why existing authorities were insufficient.

To date, that justification has not been provided.

Before this proposal advances, I respectfully request answers to the following questions:

What specific incidents prompted this proposal?
How many times during the past five years has the current Charter prevented a department from accomplishing its mission?
What is the largest transfer the administration anticipates making under this authority?
Why are voters being asked to approve the authority before knowing the maximum amount?
Why are the limits not included directly in the Charter amendment?
What public problem is solved by this amendment?
How much money could potentially be transferred without additional Council approval?
Would transfers be publicly reported before or after they occur?
Would residents receive notice when funds are moved?
Could transfers undermine spending priorities established during the budget process?
Could appropriations originally intended for one purpose be redirected to another purpose within the same department?
What audit requirements would apply?
Has the administration prepared any fiscal impact analysis?
Has any independent review been conducted?
Why should the Council reduce its direct control over appropriated funds?
If future administrations abuse this authority, what safeguards exist?

The public budget process exists for a reason. Residents expect that funds approved through that process will be spent according to the priorities debated and adopted by the Council.

Charter amendments should expand government authority only when a clear need has been demonstrated. Based on the information provided thus far, that case has not been made.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reject Resolution 26-89 or defer action until the administration provides specific examples, fiscal analysis, proposed limits, and accountability safeguards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Edward Codelia
Kula, Maui
Resident, REALTOR®

Great Committee

From: Allison M. Nakama <anakama@wik.com>
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2026 11:20 AM
To: Great Committee
Subject: Oahu Publications, Inc. testimony re Reso 25-215, Proposed Charter Amendment on the Notice and Conduct of Public Hearings (GREAT-10(3)) scheduled for hearing on June 2, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.
Attachments: OPI testimony.pdf

You don't often get email from anakama@wik.com. Learn why this is important

Aloha Chair Batangan, Vice Chair U'u-Hodgins and Members of the Committee,

Attached is written testimony from Oahu Publications Inc. in regards to Resolution 25-215, Proposed Charter Amendment on the Notice and Conduct of Public Hearings (GREAT-10(3)) scheduled for hearing on June 2, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Thank you.

Allison

Allison Nakama
Watanabe Ing LLP
999 Bishop Street, Suite 1250
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 544-6728

TO: The Honorable Kauanoe Batangan, Chair
The Honorable Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Vice Chair
Members of the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee

FROM: Dennis E. Francis, President & Publisher
Oahu Publications Inc.

RE: RESOLUTION 25-215, PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ON THE NOTICE AND CONDUCT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS (GREAT-10(3)) - Comments, Request for amendment

DATE: Tuesday, June 2, 2026; 1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Batangan, Vice Chair U'u-Hodgins, and Members of the Committee:

Oahu Publications Inc. respectfully submits testimony expressing its concerns regarding the inclusion of the phrase "outdated requirement" in the proposed Maui County Charter Amendment in Resolution 25-215, which proposes to submit for electoral ballot consideration, in part, the elimination of the "outdated requirement to publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the County" certain county notices.

On its face, the phrase "outdated requirement" is subjective, and fails to neutrally describe the legal effect of the proposal.

With respect to analogous constitutional amendments, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §11-118.5 requires that a ballot question must be capable of producing a "knowing and deliberate expression of voter choice." This statute was upheld by the Hawai'i Supreme Court in Kahalekai v. Doi, 60 Haw. 324, 325, 590 P.2d 543, 544 (1979), in which the Court expressly held that the ballot question "must [...] be in a form and language which will not mislead or deceive." The Court explained that a ballot question becomes improper when it implies an official recommendation rather than neutrally presenting the issue. Id. at 336. The same principle that "a ballot, to be sufficient, must neither mislead nor advocate a position, but must simply state [the] question clearly" was affirmed in Thirty Voters of Kauai County v. Doi, 61 Haw. 179, 182, 599 P.2d 286, 289 (1979).

The inclusion of the word "outdated" in the proposed Maui County ballot question violates these standards by subjectively characterizing existing Maui Charter provisions relating to public notice as an "outdated requirement". The word "outdated" improperly suggests to voters that current notice in a newspaper of general circulation lacks legitimacy or practicality, and thus the question as currently worded does not neutrally present the issue.

Furthermore, existing Hawai'i law continues to recognize newspaper publication requirements. For example, HRS §1-28.5 requires government agencies to give public notice "in a daily or weekly publication of statewide circulation" and HRS § 50-10 requires the publication of proposed county charters "in a newspaper of general circulation within the county." Because Hawai'i statutes continue to recognize and utilize newspaper notification requirements, the labeling of such requirements as "outdated" in the proposed ballot question improperly advocates for a specific outcome, and does not "simply state [the ballot] question clearly," as required under Hawai'i Supreme Court precedent.

For these reasons, O'ahu Publications respectfully urges the Committee to omit the word "outdated" from the proposed ballot question, in order to ensure that voters will be fairly informed of the amendment's effect while complying with the Hawai'i Supreme Court precedent that ballot questions must be neutral and not misleading or deceptive.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Great Committee

From: Char O'Brien <char@foodsecurityhawaii.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2026 5:31 AM
To: Great Committee
Subject: Testimony for Tuesday June 2nd
Attachments: Resolution 26-87.docx

You don't often get email from char@foodsecurityhawaii.org. Learn why this is important

Please accept this testimony

Char O'Brien

Char@FoodSecurityHawaii.org
(808) 344-5339
FoodSecurityHawaii.org

June 2, 2026

Food Security Hawaii strongly supports Resolution 26-87.

It is essential that the County of Maui set aside these funds to address the growing impacts of climate change. The urgency is greater than many realize: the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has acknowledged that climate change is progressing faster than earlier models projected.

In fact, the earth has warmed as much from 2000 to 2025 as it did from 1775 to 2000 and scientists did not see this coming.

Current observations point to an alarming pattern of rising temperatures and increasingly severe consequences around the world.

One of the most significant effects is the rapid loss of ocean-generated cloud cover, a change that is already affecting Hawai‘i.

Carbon sequestration, which is central to climate resilience, is also directly tied to food security on Maui. Increasing soil carbon improves soil fertility and water-holding capacity, making farms and backyard gardens more productive and more resilient.

Dedicating 20% of the annual transient accommodations tax to this effort would help Maui strengthen its local food systems and better prepare for climate-related challenges that are arriving faster than many experts once expected.

In appreciation for all that you do,

Charlotte O’Brien

Executive Director, Food Security Hawaii

Great Committee

From: Hanna Lilley <hlilley@surfrider.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2026 10:07 AM
To: Great Committee
Subject: Surfrider Foundation Testimony in Support Resolution 26-87 Climate Action and Resilience Revolving Fund
Attachments: Surfrider Foundation Maui Testimony Support Reso. 26-87.pdf

You don't often get email from hlilley@surfrider.org. Learn why this is important

Aloha Chair Batangan, Vice Chair U‘u- Hodgins, and Members of the Committee,

Please find attached and copied below testimony from the Surfrider Foundation Maui Chapter in strong support of Resolution No. 26-87, establishing a Climate Action and Resiliency Revolving Fund.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Hanna

June 2, 2026

Re: Resolution No. 26-87 – Climate Action and Resiliency Revolving Fund

Hearing: Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, June 2, 1:30 PM 2026

To: Chair Batangan, Vice Chair U‘u Hodgins, and Members of the Committee

The Surfrider Foundation Maui Chapter respectfully submits testimony in strong support of Resolution No. 26-87, which would establish a Climate Action and Resiliency Revolving Fund dedicated to implementing Maui County's Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP).

Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots non-profit dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our oceans, waves, and beaches. Through our Coast and Climate and Clean Water programs, the Maui Chapter works across the island to advance shoreline adaptation, coastal restoration, climate resilience, wastewater solutions, and long-term planning for sea level rise and coastal hazards.

The impacts of climate change are no longer theoretical—they are already affecting Maui communities. The March 2026 Kona Low storms provided a stark reminder of our vulnerability, causing severe flooding, infrastructure damage, coastal erosion, shoreline collapse, and widespread water quality impacts. Following the storms, Surfrider's Blue Water Task Force monitoring documented elevated bacteria levels at beaches across the island, highlighting how at risk our wastewater and drainage infrastructure are to extreme weather events.

At the same time, Maui's coastlines face increasing pressure from chronic erosion and rising sea levels. Many of Hawai‘i's beaches are already narrowing, and dense coastal development has created a "coastal squeeze," where shorelines are trapped between rising seas and hardened infrastructure. Shorelines are essential buffers for coastal communities, but they are dynamic systems that need room to move. Without proactive planning and investment, the loss of beaches and public access, structural collapse, and hazardous emergency situations will only accelerate.

The Climate Action and Resiliency Plan identifies many of the solutions needed to address these challenges, including nature-based shoreline management, wetland restoration, wastewater improvements, disaster preparedness, and relocation planning for vulnerable coastal areas. However, plans alone will not build resilience. Meaningful implementation requires stable, dedicated funding.

Resolution 26-87 would create a reliable mechanism to move Maui County from reactive disaster response toward proactive climate adaptation and resilience planning. By dedicating funding to implement the County's adopted Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, Maui can invest in the solutions needed to protect public infrastructure, coastal communities, beaches, water quality, and public trust resources before climate impacts become more costly and difficult to address.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this resolution.

Sincerely,

Hanna Lilley
Hawai‘i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation

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Hanna Lilley
Hawai’i Regional Manager
Direct: 808.460.3588 Office: 949.492.8170
hlilley@surfrider.org

The Ocean Needs More Friends

June 2, 2026

Re: Resolution No. 26-87 – Climate Action and Resiliency Revolving Fund
Hearing: Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, June 2, 1:30 PM 2026

To**:** Chair Batangan, Vice Chair U‘u Hodgins, and Members of the Committee

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Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this resolution.

Sincerely,

Hanna Lilley
Hawai‘i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Great Committee

From: cody nemet <kokoroots@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2026 10:20 AM
To: Great Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of Resolution 26-87 – Climate Action and Resilience Revolving Fund

You don't often get email from kokoroots@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Aloha Chair and Members of the GREAT Committee,

My name is Cody Nemet Tuivaiti, and I serve as Project Director of a restoration hui called ʻĀinakūkoʻa o Waiohuli Kai in South Maui.

I am writing in support of Resolution 26-87 and the proposed Climate Action and Resilience Revolving Fund.

As a hui working daily in the field, I see firsthand the impacts of climate change on our coastlines, wetlands, native ecosystems, and communities. At Waiohuli Kai we have witnessed increased coastal erosion, flooding, sediment movement, wetland degradation, and the growing need for proactive adaptation strategies.

The projects identified within Maui County's Climate Action and Resiliency Plan are not theoretical. They are real actions that communities across Maui Nui need now. Wetland restoration, invasive species management, shoreline resilience projects, environmental education, community collaboration, and disaster preparedness all contribute directly to the long-term health and safety of our island.

Establishing a dedicated funding source ensures that climate resilience remains a long-term commitment rather than a project that depends on fluctuating priorities or short-term funding opportunities. Investing in prevention, restoration, and preparedness today will reduce future costs while protecting our natural and cultural resources for generations to come.

As practitioners working on the ground, we know that healthy ecosystems provide critical protection for our communities. Wetlands absorb floodwaters, native vegetation stabilizes shorelines, and community stewardship builds resilience before disasters occur.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support Resolution 26-87 and advance this Charter amendment for the people of Maui County.

Mahalo for your consideration and your commitment to the future of our islands.

Respectfully,

Cody Nemet

Project Director, ʻĀinakūkoʻa o Waiohuli Kai