

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

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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



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

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

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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 'Āinakūko'a 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, 'Āinakūko'a o Waiohuli Kai