



Care for 'Āina Now Coalition

June 16, 2026

Kauanoë Batangan, Chair
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee
Government Relations, Ethics & Transparency Committee
Maui County Council

Re: Strong Support for Resolution 26-87

Aloha Chair Batangan, Vice-Chair U'u Hodgins, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Care for 'Āina Now Coalition, we are writing to express our strong support for Resolution 26-87 which would place on the next General Election ballot the question of whether the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended, should be amended effective July 1, 2027, to require that, in adopting the annual operating budget, the Council appropriate at least 20 percent of Maui County Transient Accommodations Tax revenues into a Climate Action and Resiliency Revolving Fund to implement the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan.

Natural resources are the lifeblood of our pae 'āina, providing us with the essentials for survival and the foundation for Hawaii's economy, our very society. These resources include clean air and water, fertile soil, living coral reefs, stable coastlines and beaches, biodiversity and healthy forests. We commend the Maui County Council for considering this important measure.

We are a coalition of more than 70 organizations committed to supporting better management and stewardship of natural resources for the protection of our communities, our water supplies, our economy, and our environment..

This resolution presents an opportunity to strengthen climate resilience, protect ocean and coastal ecosystems, and close longstanding conservation funding gaps. From our perspective, dedicating funding is one of the most important steps that the County can take to protect residents and future generations by prioritizing watershed and forest restoration and safeguarding freshwater supplies, enhancing coastal resilience, promoting ecosystem health, strengthening climate adaptation planning and ensuring the success of disaster preparedness initiatives that help communities withstand storms, heat, and drought.

Placing a measure such as this on the ballot underscores those principles and will help ensure that Hawai'i's environmental investments remain strategic and responsive to community needs. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your leadership on this important measure.