

March 24, 2021

To whom it may concern,

As one of the Kau residents that previously testified in opposition to Ala Kahakai Trail Association's acquisition of 1,841.3 acres at Kiolakaa and 348 acres at Manakaa on January 22, 2021, I am writing this letter to state that I remain in opposition to granting land acquisitions in Kau to this organization.

I do not know Keoni Fox or Kaleo Paik personally, but I know my community, and when certain kupuna/families spoke out about their concerns with Keoni Fox I observed the situation carefully. What I have experienced through the various meetings with, and about, these affiliates is that there are many promises being made, but little to no establishing of trust. There is also a lot of AKTA telling us what we need to do, but not enough of them listening to what we ask. Kau has a long history of outside organizations coming in and taking advantage of our community for their personal benefit, and the way AKTA has operated so far is no different.

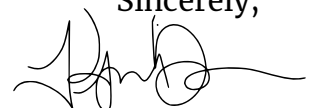
When asked why our community should trust AKTA and their partners Keoni told us to look at his track record and what he has done in Kau. In doing so I can definitively say that these people are neither capable of building beneficial relationships with the community nor responsible enough to care for the aina and its resources – one of which being the noho aina, or the people living on the land.

Being that AKTA's interest in Kau lands has been in the works since 2016 there has been a significant amount of time and opportunity for this organization to at least develop positive relationships with local organizations (like Kau Multicultural Society), kupuna, and generational families that still utilize these areas. As revealed by many of our community members, this was not the case.

A common theme brought forth by AKTA and their partners is that the issue of commercial development is a bigger issue than those raised by the community, but when dealing with people who have a track record of disrespecting kupuna, mismanaging aina, and refusing to address contradictions this "preservation" of Kau is as much a gamble as the development being highlighted by AKTA. It also inappropriately overlooks the pre-existing issues of access, accountability, and desecration on these lands that need to be addressed.

In this case I will say that actions speak louder than words, and regardless of Keoni and his affiliates' proclaimed intentions I cannot believe what they say because I see what they do.

Sincerely,



Kaweni Ibarra

[EXTERNAL] Notice of verbal testimony - March 31 Legacy Meeting

LeaHong

Fri3/26/20215:08PM

To: DLNR.FW.LLCC<llcc@hawaii.gov>

Cc: ReynaRamolete

Aloha –

Testifier's name: Reyna Ramolete and Lea Hong registering for verbal testimony.

Agenda Item: 2

Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands State Director
Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow

PLEASE NOTE PHONE NUMBER CHANGE



The Trust for Public Land
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 740
Honolulu, HI 96813

NEW P: 808-470-2141 | C: 808-783-3653

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[EXTERNAL] Review and Reconsider Commission Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Award (possible Action Item)

laakea

Fri 3/26/2021 6:23 PM

To: DLNR.FW.LLCC <llcc@hawaii.gov>

I would like to provide public spoken testimony for this meeting scheduled for Wed., March 31, 2021 at 2 PM via ZOOM

La'akea Suganuma, President
The Mary Kawena Puku'i Cultural Preservation Society
835 Ahuwale St., Honolulu, HI 96821

Mr. Leroy Simms Jr.
lmadsimms@yahoo.com
(808) 238-4222

LEGACY LAND COMMISSIONERS

Testimony for the Commission's Administrative Record

Gentlemen

I am writing this letter in **STRONG OPPOSITION** regarding the acquisitions of approximately 1,363 acres at Ka'u, Hawaii Tax Map Key Numbers (3) 9-5-011:001, :004, :005 and to include :006 and (3) 9-5-012:001 by Ala Kahakai Trails Association (Trust for Public Lands and /or Keoni Fox).

Therefore, with the Ka'u Community planning and vision as Ka'u na Kupuna, our desires, I continue to be in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Kiolakaa and Manaka'a.

Your attentions to my Testimony for the Commission's Administrative Record would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours.

Mr. Leroy Simms Jr.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Hawaii State Aha Moku Response
To the Legacy Land Conservation Commission

March 31, 2021
Honolulu, Hawaii

Agenda Item 2: Review and Reconsider Commission Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Award (possible Action Item):

Ala Kahakai Trail Association, \$1,475,000, for the acquisition of approximately 1,841.3 acres at Ka'ū, Hawai'i (Kiolaka'a), Tax Map Key Numbers (3) 9-4-001:008, :009, :016, :017, and :023

Aloha Chairperson Haase and Honorable Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (LLCC),

We also greet LLCC member Kanoë Wilson, of Moku O Keawe who is knowledgeable about Hawaiian culture; LLCC member Rick Warshauer, also of Moku O Keawe; Mr. David Smith, Administrator of the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW); and David Penn, Program Specialist of the LLCC.

On behalf of the Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) participants and members of Native Hawaiian lineal and generational families of the Kiolaka'a ahupua'a in the Ka'u Moku on Moku O Keawe (Island of Hawai'i), we come before you to sadly but **strongly oppose** the application of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) request for funding of \$1,475,000 to acquire approximately 1,841.3 acres of the Kiolaka'a Ahupua'a in Ka'u. This would constitute almost the entire ahupua'a, mauka and makai.

The Aha Moku process was restored through the translations of ancient chants from the 9th century with the foundation of *Malama Ke Akua* (Honor God), *Malama I Ka 'Aina* (Honor the Land), and *Malama I Na Iwi Hanau O Ka 'Aina* (Honor the People Born of the Land). This foundation, centered in the blood of the generational and traditional native Hawaiians of each place throughout the Pae'Aina is the driving force of the people of Ka'u to protect and preserve their lands, their coastal areas and their culture. This foundation is the strength of the people of Ka'u.

There is no question that the lands in Kiolaka'a, per §173A-2.6, match the criteria needed for acquisition by having "unique and valuable cultural or archaeological resources, lands that are in imminent danger of being modified, changed, or used in a manner to diminish its value; and lands containing cultural or archaeological sites or resources that are in danger of theft or destruction" among other criteria. These lands have enormous value to the State of Hawaii, but more importantly, these lands are the lifeblood and heart of the culture of Ka'u. There is no trust that ATA can, or will protect and preserve this culture.

On January 22, 2021 Aha Moku submitted a strong letter of opposition to the State Land Board (attached) after considerable consultation with the generational and traditional families of Kiolaka'a, Waiohinu, Kawela and Kamilo who have deep concerns over the ATA treatment of lands already acquired in Waikapuna. We refer you to that letter which outlines our Synopsis of Research done that brought us to our position of opposition, identifies the traditional families who are impacted by this acquisition, specifies their concerns, but also offered recommendations for mitigation and possible solutions.

The Land Board listened to these concerns and deferred their decision to approve the application upon the condition that ATA worked with the Ka'u community to come to consensus. Unfortunately, while there has been constant effort on the part of the community to make this happen, it did not materialize. There is deep hurt permeating the community by the

actions of ATA, particularly the kupuna of the generational and traditional families of the Kawelo, Kiolaka'a, and Waiohinu Ahupua'a. This hurt was caused by the following:

- ATA began its process of applying for the funds to acquire Kiolaka'a in 2016. They have no draft community resource plan in place and did not consult with or meet with any of the community or kupuna of the generational families who have never stopped traditional gathering practices unique to Ka'u and Kiolaka'a.
- Since the January 2021 Land Board Meeting, there have been weekly meetings among the different community groups in Ka'u to address their concerns brought forward in the Aha Moku response to the Board, research the issues in depth, and try to sincerely find a way for consensus. The meetings were held by the Multi-Cultural Society of Ka'u, the Ka'u Hawaiian Civic Club, and 'ohana meetings within the ahupua'a.
 - A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) draft was attempted by the Ka'u community in which the people would have a stronger presence in the enactment of the Community Resource Plan for Kiolaka'a. And, although this concept was brought to ATA very early and agreed upon, there was no effort on their part to assist in the drafting of this consensual agreement.
- On February 16, 2021, in answer to community concerns that no prior community meetings were held, ATA hosted a zoom meeting with full presentations of their positions and wishes. This meeting attracted at least 60 people, and all supported the position of protecting and preserving the coastline of Kiolaka'a, and at the time, Manaka'a. But there was no agreement to support ATA. General concerns were discussed, and everyone was hopeful that consensus could be reached. However, there was no follow-up meetings for progress reports.
- On March 6, 2021, an in-person meeting with the kupuna elders and ATA was held to try to finalize the concept for the MOA, to answer questions and concerns, and to receive progress reports from ATA. Again, unfortunately the MOA could not be completed as questions from the people to ATA were not answered.
 - One week later, pictures of ATA Board members with their stewardship committee members surfaced via Facebook that showed structures being built on the Ka'alu'alu Cave and pond. This excursion happened before the in-person meeting on March 6th and was never brought up or spoken about. Again, there was no transparency.
 - The Ka'alu'alu Cave is considered a sacred and significant cultural and religious site by the Ka'u people where pristine and clean drinking water is protected by the people. It is not a tourist destination and is located within the Kiolaka'a Ahupua'a.

With deep regret, the Ka'u community decided to strongly oppose the ATA application. There is no trust that ATA will honor the protection and preservation of Ka'u coastline, lands and irreplaceable cultural practices permeated within these lands. ATA continuously promises that only they can sustain the coastline – but how can they without the support and cooperation of the community?

ATA has not followed the three main Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Kapa'akai Supreme Court law.¹

- 1) They have not identified the “valued cultural, historical, or natural resources” in the impacted area, including the extent to which traditional and customary native Hawaiian rights are exercised in the petition area;
- 2) They have not shown the extent to which the natural resources, including traditional and customary native Hawaiian rights, will be impacted or impaired by the proposed actions; and,
- 3) They have not taken any feasible action, if any, to reasonably protect native Hawaiian rights if they are found to exist.

It is for these reasons that the Aha Moku strongly opposes this application and urges the Legacy Lands Conservation Commission to deny the application of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association request for the acquisition of Kiolaka'a.

There are Ka'u residents who wish to submit oral testimony on this acquisition in opposition. We ask that they be allowed to speak at this meeting. It is hoped that this report and the testimonies of the native Hawaiians who are most impacted will be heard.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to share the deep feelings and concerns of the native Hawaiian generational practitioners and people of Ka'u. It is deeply appreciated, and we look forward to any discussion on these issues.

¹ Ka Pa'akai O Ka'Aina v. Land Use Commission, State of Hawai'i, 2000, Supreme Court of Hawai'i

Respectfully and humbly yours,

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Leimana DaMate, Executive Director
Hawaii State Aha Moku, Phone: 808-640-1214, Email: Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov

Attachment:
Hawaii State Aha Moku Testimony, January 22, 2021, Board of Land and Natural Resources Meeting



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Hawaii State Aha Moku Response
To the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Land Board)

For the meeting of the Land Board

January 22, 2021
Honolulu, Hawaii

**FISCAL YEAR 2021 LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND
AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION
COMMISSION, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF INTERESTS AND RIGHTS IN
SPECIFIC PARCELS OF LAND HAVING VALUE AS A RESOURCE TO THE STATE, FOR:**

**B. ALA KAHAKAI TRAIL ASSOCIATION, \$1,475,000, FOR THE
ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 1,841.3 ACRES AT KA'Ū,
HAWAI'I (KIOLAKA'A), TAX MAP KEY NUMBERS (3) 9-4-001:008,
:009, :016, :017, AND :023**

**C. ALA KAHAKAI TRAIL ASSOCIATION, \$875,000, FOR THE
ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 348 ACRES AT KA'Ū,
HAWAI'I (MANĀKA'A FISHING VILLAGE), TAX MAP KEY
NUMBER (3) 9-5-010:026**

Aloha Chairperson Case and Honorable Members of the Land Board,

On behalf of the Aha Moku participants and members of Native Hawaiian generational families connected to the ahupua'a that are part of the Ka'u Moku on Moku O Keawe (Island of Hawai'i), we offer you the responses of generational native Hawaiian families of Ka'u that are directly impacted by this request of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission in relation to the application of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (AKTA). The AKTA has asked for the acquisition of interests and rights in specific parcels of land having value as a resource to the state. However, these same specific parcels have special and primary value as a resource to the native Hawaiian generational families of the Kiolaka'a and Kaunamano (Manaka'a) ahupua'a.

Aha Moku Foundation

*E MĀLAMALAMA KA PONO O HAWAI'I
COMPOSED BY KAWAIKAPUOKALANI K. HEWETT JAN. 3, 2021*

*E MĀLAMALAMA KE AKUA
E MĀLAMALAMA KA 'ĀINA
E MĀLAMALAMA KEKAHI I KEKAHI*

E MĀLAMALAMA KA PONO O HAWAI'I

I KA 'ŌLELO KE OLA

I KA 'ŌLELO KA MAKE

HE 'ŌLELO MANAMANA MAI NA KŪPUNA MAI

HE KANAWAI KA 'ŌLELO MAI KE AKUA MAI

HE KANAWAI NA KĀKOU E PŪLAMA IHO AI

HAVE HONOR AND RESPECT FOR THE GOD

HAVE HONOR AND RESPECT FOR THE 'ĀINA

HAVE HONOR AND RESECT FOR ONE ANOTHER

HAVE HONOR AND RESPECT FOR THE ORDER OF HAWAI'I...

IN THE LANGUAGE THER IS LIFE

IN THE LANGUAGE THERE IS DEATH

A POWERFUL LANGUAGE FROM OUR ANCESTORS

THE LANGUAGE IS A COVENANT FROM AKUA

THESE ANCIENT PROCLOMATIONS/EDICTS WE MUST PERPETUATE

In these words of the last living founder of the Hawaii State Aha Moku, Kawaikapuokalani Hewett brings forth the 'uhane (spirit) and 'ike (knowledge) of the kupuna of all the islands. And, in this case, particularly of Ka'u. The native Hawaiian families of Ka'u religiously believe and live these cultural protocols which have been passed down for generations. Further, as time and history has shown, other ethnic groups were drawn into the indigenous culture and became a part of it. They too, honor and practice the traditional ways. Together, they make up the bulk of the tight-knit community of Ka'u.

Synopsis of Research

Because the applications of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (AKTA) involves the acquisition of 2,189.3 acres of Ka'u coastal land, it was necessary to consult with generational families of the Kiolaka'a and Kaunamano (Manaka'a) ahupua'a, as well as the neighboring ahupua'a from Kalae to Keauhou (Kawela, Kolakaa, Waiohinu, Kamilo, Honuapo, Kaaiaki, Hilea, Ninole, Wailau, Punaluu, Makaha Kopu Moaula, Paauau, Hiokoloa, Kauhuula, Kaaiaaia, Kapapaia, Kaaha) to see if there were any concerns that should be brought up to the Land Board concerning the traditional and historical Ala Kahakai trail. And to get a better understanding of the basis for these concerns, the Hawaii County General Plan (HCGP) and Ka'u Community Development Plan (KCDP) were reexamined, particularly as many of the kupuna still living were intimately involved in developing the KCDP in the early 2000's. The final KCDP was developed in 2009 and adopted in October 2017. Again, concerns on the current acquisition request were brought forward as kupuna today were a large part of the community who developed that CDP for Ka'u. It was never the community's intent that such large portions of their coastline would be under the control of a small group who is not symbiotically connected to the lands, the water and the ocean of Ka'u as those who for generations lived, died and were put to rest here. These families never left Ka'u.

Kapa'akai O Ka Aina¹ Analysis

The Kapa'akai Analysis was used in determining whether traditional and customary practices would be impacted by the AKTA acquisition

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Kapa'akai Case

- Identification and scope of “valued cultural, historical, or natural resources” in petition or impacted area, including the extent to which traditional and customary native Hawaiian rights are exercised in the petition area;
- The extent to which those resources, including traditional and customary native Hawaiian rights, will be affected or impaired by the proposed actions;
- The feasible action, if any, to be taken to reasonably protect native Hawaiian rights if they are found to exist.

The petition area in this case is the acquisition request by AKTA of 2,161 acres through Legacy Lands Funds of coastal lands that encompass the traditional Ala Kahakai Trail in Ka'u.

Traditional and generational families of Ka'u

While the historical content of the AKTA application listed the physical attributes of one fishing village in Manaka'a, there were many more along the coastline. There is no objection to the description of some of the historical assets of the coastline but there is no specific data listed of how these villages were used and who used them. The descendants of these places are the voices brought forward and they continue to practice their culture as passed down from their ancestors of these villages.

Another important factor to remember is that the Moku of Ka'u was never conquered at any time, by anyone including Kamehameha Paiea. The people are extremely proud of that fact, and fiercely defend their lands and cultural practices that have been handed down from the beginning and connect directly to the Kumulipo.

There are many historical and generational families who traditionally and culturally practice their unique native disciplines in the ahupua'a of Kiolaka'a and Kaunamano. These families intermarried and spread along the entire coast of Ka'u. They and their descendants continue to consistently gather along the coastline, and fish these waters for subsistence. Ka'u is the land that is the most southern part of the main Hawaiian Islands. Their culture, dialect, protocols and practices are distinctly unique to the natural and cultural resources of this place. The people are proud of this and determined to keep it so.

These are the traditional and generational families who were consulted and are a part of the Aha Moku of Ka'u. The Apiki 'Ohana, The Ke 'Ohana, The Hanoa 'Ohana, The Kaniho 'Ohana, The Kahale 'Ohana, The Kaina 'Ohana, the Kapele 'Ohana, The Kaleohano 'Ohana, the Kuluwaimaka 'Ohana, the Kailimai 'Ohana, The Kanakalolo 'Ohana, the Kuaimoku 'Ohana, the Kaheananui 'Ohana, the Kuaimoku 'Ohana, the Kaupu 'Ohana, Lahinu 'Ohana, Kalua 'Ohana, Paaluhi 'Ohana, Kaaua 'Ohana, Kahele 'Ohana, Napoleon 'Ohana, the Kanaina 'Ohana, the Palea 'Ohana, the Kaolulo 'Ohana and the Paaluhi 'Ohana. There are others we were not able to connect to for this meeting, but they are related to many of the families listed.

¹ Ka Pa'akai O Ka'Aina v. Land Use Commission, State of Hawai'i, 2000, Supreme Court of Hawai'i

Areas of Deep Concern:

These families oppose these applications. They are distrustful for many reasons and asked to have them listed in this report. Their concerns are as follows:

- In studying the requirements of the Legacy Lands Commission nine resource preservation purposes established in HRS §173 A-5(g) listed as:
 - Watershed protection;
 - Coastal areas, beaches, and ocean access;
 - Habitat protection;
 - Cultural and historical sites;
 - Recreational and public hunting areas;
 - Parks;
 - Natural Areas;
 - Agricultural production; and
 - Open spaces and scenic resources.

The people feel that AKTA were not successful in meeting these requirements.

- In order to meet the requirements, AKTA would have needed to meet with the community to identify each of these components. This was not done. While they were able to list archaeological sites taken from history books, they could not have identified the most important religious and cultural wahi pana, and important subsistence places especially along the coast including the nine fishing ko 'a fronting Kiolaka'a and Kaunamano. These subsistence fishing ko'a can only be accessed by the Ala Kahakai Trail.
 - 'Ohana have been denied this access by AKTA who already control the lands of Waikapuna, granted to them in 2017. Currently, access can only be had by permit controlled by Kuahiwi Ranch, owned by a non-Hawaiian rancher whose fences are blocking off access to wahi pana and significant cultural areas.
 - Not one of the Board Members of the AKTA is from Ka'u:
 - Dennis Hart, president is from South Kona
 - Alan Brown, vice-president is from Kohala
 - Kaleo Paik, secretary is from South Kona
 - Ray Broggini, treasurer is from Santa Rosa, California
 - Linda Galano, member is from Waianae, Oahu
 - Keoni Fox, member is from Waikane, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu
 - Mr. Fox has ancestral ties, through his grandfather to Na'alehu and spent summers as a youth in Ka'u but is not considered a generational practitioner of Ka'u. He is considered a generational practitioner of Waikane, O'ahu.
 - La Crivello, member is from Kailua, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu

Note: It is with no disrespect that these Board members of AKTA are mentioned as they are acknowledged to be sincere people who wish to do the right thing for the lands and coastline. They are acknowledged for the work they do on the portion of the Ala Kahakai that is within the Volcanos National Park boundaries:

However, the point is that they are not generational practitioners who were born and raised in Ka'u and therefore do not know the deep traditional practices and symbiotic relationships of the

people within these coastal lands. Without establishing a strong connection with the people of this place, they cannot begin to understand and are considered maha'oi.

- AKTA did not hold one single community meeting in Ka'u, nor did they consult with any of the true kamaaina families who do know the natural and cultural resources of the coastline. Instead, they used two informational booths – one at the Volcanoes National Park Cultural Festival, and one at a Kahuku Ranch Event within the past two years. They collected the signatures, which were turned in at the April 23, 2020 Land Board Meeting from these events. Most of the signatures were from people who were not from Ka'u but were visitors to a public event – one hosted by the Volcanoes National Park, and the other by a private ranch.
- The AKTA was originally formed and supported by the federal Volcanoes National Park (VNP) in 2006 to support the federal national trail system. It became a registered non-profit in 2008. According to traditional maps, the Parks coastal jurisdiction ends at the Kauhuula ahupua'a. Although the AKTA is now a private non-profit, it was created, funded and supported by the VNP to focus on the Ka'u coastline. If AKTA is granted this acquisition, the fear of the people is that the federal government will gain and control the 80 additional coastal miles of Ka'u. And, although legally the Parks boundaries cannot be extended without public hearings, control of the coastline will be gained through the AKTA as this was the original purpose that it was created.
 - The people of Ka'u are committed to the Hawaii State Constitution, and do not wish to come under the federal jurisdiction.

Further Concern

It must be noted that the people are also aware that there are developers waiting to purchase these coastal lands as well. The need to protect the traditional and customary practices in Ka'u overshadows the anger of not being consulted through open community meetings on these acquisitions.

Aha Moku Recommendations to the Land Board

The Ka'u communities, including generational families who have never left Ka'u, and after consultation with staff of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), recommends the following:

1. **The State of Hawaii should purchase the lands in question!** The focus of DOFAW and the Legacy Lands is to use public funds to buy lands for the public so that unique and critical ecosystems and natural and cultural resources can be protected perpetually. Lands can then be leased to responsible entities, including non-profits, community groups and others who are connected to the specific lands and will have the kuleana (responsibility) to preserve, protect and sustain these lands for current and future generations.
2. If this is not possible, then the people propose the following:
 - A. The people **OPPOSE** the application of the AKTA unless the following groups are part of the creation of a Master Plan for the Ala Kahakai:
 - a. The Ka'u Kupuna Council
 - b. The Ka'u Hawaiian Civic Club
 - c. The Ka'u Multi-Cultural Society
 - d. The Ka'u Kuleana

These prominent community organizations are all non-profit and are directly connected to traditional and customary practitioners as well as to most residents of Ka'u except for the Kupuna Council which is made up of kupuna and elders of the moku of Ka'u. They practice the Hawaiian protocol listed above by Aha Moku Founder and Lehua, Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, as do all indigenous native Hawaiians on all the main Hawaiian Islands.

There are Ka'u residents who wish to submit oral testimony on this acquisition, both in opposition and in support. We ask that they be allowed to speak at this Land Board meeting. Many of them submitted written testimony in the April 24, 2020 Land Board meeting and although it is known that the Board did see them, none of the opposition testimonies were accepted. It is hoped that this report and the testimonies of the native Hawaiians who are most impacted will be heard.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to share the deep feelings and concerns of the native Hawaiian generational practitioners and people of Ka'u. It is deeply appreciated, and we look forward to any discussion on these issues.

Respectfully and humbly yours,

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March 26, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I OPPOSE the application of Ala Kahakai Trail Association to Legacy Lands Conservation Program, for the acquisition of approximately 1,341.3 acres at Kiolakaa and 348 acres at Manakaa Ka'u.

Ala Kahakai Trail Association (AKTA) has been in the process of applying for Legacy Land Funds years prior to the current covid pandemic.

Important community meetings with families and kupuna of Ka'u could have been arranged. Ka'u kupuna and myself were not aware of this taking place. Meetings with our community should be the first and the most respectful step taken by AKTA.

AKTA held a online zoom community meeting on February 16, 2021. There are Ka'u kupuna who do not have a email or internet service needed to attend online meetings.

AKTA had sufficient amount of time to work with a Ka'u non profit like Ka'u Multicultural Society for this acquisition process. They had time to give the kupuna of the many different ethnic groups living in Ka'u the opportunity to share their mana'o and be part of the decision process on what should happen on these lands. This would show AKTA their respect to the people still living in Ka'u.

On March 6, 2021 the Aha Moku Advisory Committee held a community meeting with AKTA.

Keoni Fox who is a board member and 2 steering committee members were in attendance.

At the meeting Keoni mentions "why did I call Manakaa a fishing village, they love ~~that~~ hearing that, fishing village, heritage, cultural significance helps to give it a little bit more attention"

Can the people of Ka'u trust AKTA if that statement is not accurate, if that statement is not pono?

No AKTA officers or other board members were present to answer questions asked by community members. Keoni was the spokesperson for the association.

There were some important questions that wasn't answered.

I want to again mention my OPPOSITION for the acquisition of land in Ka'u to Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Kekoa
Jeffrey Kekoa

Jeannette Bento
PO Box 792
Hilo, Hawaii. 96721

February 18,2021

David Penn, Program Specialist
Legacy Land Conservation

RE: acquisition of
KIOLAKAA

Aloha,

My name is Jeannette Kama Bento, I am writing in Strong Opposition regarding the KILOKAA acquisition by Alakahakai Trails Association (Trust for Public lands and/or Keoni Fox)

I have recently retired of almost 35 years of professional social work I have worked with orphaned Hawaiian children and their families. I know that healing for our Hawaiian people will begin as they become the stewards of their own sovereignty. Certainly, the idea to secure lands to protect from outside development is admirable, I am hoping that this can be done by those that grew up and continue to live in Kau.

I myself did not grow up in Kau, and I do not live in Kau.

However, I have rooted ancestral ties that compels me to object this acquisition from Ala Kahakai trails.

From my genealogy research and documentation from Pukui, Kamakau, Mckenzie and Beckly documentation, I can surmise the following,

Jeannette Bento:

Keawe -I-Kekahi alii-o-ka-moku (k) ia Lono-ma'a-i-kanaka (w) hanau-
Kalani-nui-a-mamao (Tutu Kawena Pukui)

Kalani-nui-a-mamao and Kapa'ihia -ahu hanao
Kaolani- (Pukui and Kamakau)

Kaolani AKA name for Kahikoloa-(Kekoolani)

Kahikoloa is AKA Kauhiokেকka.-(Kekoolani)

Kauhiokেকka is documented as Kalaninuiamamau's daughter, as well. Mckenzie

Kahikoloa also documented in Beckley genealogy as Kahikoloa as granddaughter of King Keawe.

(Kahikoloa was married to King Kamehameha's uncle Kameeiamoku. Beckleys are from Kameeiamoku line.

Kahikoloa also is with Kapi Iwi who I descend from

Kahikoloa and Kapi Iwi hanau Keawemahi

Keawemahi and Pai hanau David Leleo Kinimaka.

David Leleo and Hanakeola hanau Alice Leleo

Alice Leleo Kinimaka and Samuel Mahuka Spencer hanau Jeanette Spencer;

Jeannette Spencer had Cicero Bento hanau Samuel Bento

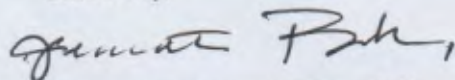
Samuel Bento and Sumiko Matsumura hanau Jeannette Kama Bento, myself.

Kalaninuiamamau was the eldest son of King Keawe, and Kalaninuiamamau was the first King of Kau. Kalaninuiamamau was also Kalaniopu's father, a King of Kau.

However, family documentation also insist that Imakakaloa was the father of Kahikoloa, of who I descend from as illustrated previously. Imakakaloa, was also a high chief in Kau of which there is an Imakakaloa heiau in Kau.

Despite differing mookuahau as to the parentage of Kahikoloa, either way, the ancients of my family seem to have their genesis in Kau. Again, though I do not reside, nor do I come from Kau, I do have significant ancestral ties to Kau. I feel compelled to profoundly object to the Alakahakai trails from securing this aina. Moreso, to protect the self determination of Kau, I align with the Kupuna, and I strongly feel that the people born and raised in that area need to be the impetus of sovereign decisions. I vehemently oppose the acquisition of this land from Alakahakai trails.

Sincerely,



Jeannette Kama Bento, LSW
Social Worker

From: Darlyne P. Vierra:

dvierra22@gmail.com

Date: March 25, 2021 at 9:50 pm

Subject: 03/31/2021 WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Darlyne P. Vierra

To: llee@hawaii.gov

March 26, 2021

Dear Legacy Land Conservation
Commission,

My name is Darlyne P. Vierra lifetime resident of Kāū. Attached is written testimony for agenda item 2 for meeting 72 of the LLCC scheduled for March 31, 2021. I cannot attend this meeting, I am still working, but please accept my OPPOSITION LETTER, for the acquisition by Ala Kahakai Trail Association of Kīolaka'a. I truly feel that they AKTA should be denied. They only had one zoom meeting after the defer (Jan 22, 2021) on Feb 16, 2021 in about 65 people. Well! That's not all the Kāū Communities and they getting support letters but really not explaining clearly, honestly to the people. main thing they sign NO, That's (Hewa) wrong! This is why like myself and many other Kupuna, Families, Friends that live here many years have NO TRUST for AKTA and Keoni Fox. At our March 6, 2021, Talk Story meeting we mainly ask alot of Questions, we never got a straight honest answers. For us our Kāū Aha Moku and Kāū Multicultural Society members of Hawaiian Civic Club of Kāū and our Hui o Kāū Communities meet every week since January 2021. We all concern this is our home, Kāū, as historical and generational families and continue our cultural practices here in Kāū and don't want to see AKTA making decision and rules to the Kāū Communities what they want or what's best for us. They don't know the place or the people. What I see all the properties they got what they really doing, no management plans or not doing what they say they doing and not keeping up and said they want more. What?

The worse thing AKTA did was not communicating or sharing with the people of Kāū to start off. But no doing things secretly or saying (Keoni) his family being doing it for 20 years. Because not only him or his family. I know! Many families here in Kāū was doing the same as them, but they were not involved until lately. Because no matter what our communities will come together, if outside companies, developers comes into Kāū and not work with the communities as a whole. they will get Kāū Opposition. Have to get the people involved, Not use or abuse their trust.

As uncle Kawaikapu quote: "The Natural Resources Are The People"

The People Are The Land
maika'i, Mahalo Re Akua!

We Are The People of Kāū! And we will protect, preserve and provide and continue to perpetuate our Kāū history.

Mahalo A Nui Loa,
Wagner A. Nui

Darlynne P. Vieira
PO Box 22
Nāʻalehu, HI 96712

"ACQUISITION OF KIDAKA'A"

March 26, 2021

Aloha: LHCC@hawaii.gov, David G. Smith,

My name is Darlynne P. Vieira lifetime resident of Kāū. This is my written testimony representing my historical and generational families of Kāū. My personal reason in this OPPOSITION LETTER here is many that I will place in this letter. I'm a researcher, Genealogist, Historian.

- A). NOT BEING Truthful in to the Kāū Communities.
- B). NOT CONSIDERING THE COMMUNITIES OPINION SHOWING NO RESPECT!
- C). FALSE INFORMATION PICTURES NEVER GET PERMISSION!
- D). Destroying, defacing, wrong addition or placing historic sites AKTA feel they doing good NO! HEWA they wrong!
- E). March 6, 2021 Keoni Fox had lots of Question by Community people present and he could not answer if! His Kupuna!?
- F). Keoni Fox threaten people from Kāū lifetime wow! They ~~are~~ are my friends, classmates, families, he cannot do this!! His own family he gets problem Wow!! NO RESPECT!
- G). He gets credit by Kaleo Paik, he finds more historical sites in 2 years coming to Kāū. He goes with the Archaeologist using them for his benefit. His mahaōi goes into historic sites touching taking things and show to friends families is forbidden some get upset with Keoni to remove it of there premises. THIS IS NOT A TRUE HAWAIIAN NOPE!!
- H). Looking for help from the media, but some of the media information is wrong (white lies) AKTA was not Threaten as as the newspaper said! The fire that started in the Makahiki grounds started with Keoni Fox Lawnmower to close to the dry on top of that his neighbor Rancher Souza pulled away the mower. In the media fire started in Ranch pasture that's wrong, correct it.

Continue (H). Did he help to stop No he took of towards the highway people pass took picture of him by the gate. The Souza Dnana mainly stopped the fire with their own water truck then fire truck came. Thanks to Souza their pasture was burning too. Then Rancher Andrade came with his tractor making a fire break so this fire no go to Naalehu town. then Keoni Fox goes to stop Andrade, cause get historical site. Did you see the makeshift Lele they made? He goes and hassle them? NO APPRECIATION - HE SAID THEY PAY for the damage? Not YET? Less than a month, after the fire he gets someone to throw about 100 goats to eat the grass. And yet in there proposal of Waikapuna they going get rid of all ungulates so what they write on paper and what they do talk to side of his mouth. So the people given them the money like that! not checking, not monitoring or No Care, they doing for them. Short staff. SHAME ON KEONI FOX - NO WANT OR HELP!!

I). Taking All these lands Kaunamano (Makahiki Field, Paula and Waikapuna and now more land NO CAN KEEP UP why All AKTA they all live outside of Ka'u; they no live here, they off Hawaii island. Then they create Committee from Ka'u and what the Ka'u people who support Keoni Fox. Do All The Work and they AKTA no Do nothing just go for the grants, orders.

J) KA'U COMMUNITIES PEOPLE! LA'AU O KA'U we can do this no need outside like AKTA the Ka'u people we can do it ourselves we need to come as one.

(K) maybe its about time! FUTURE PLANS TO SIGN UP FOR THIS MONEY GRANTS THAT WILL BENEFIT KA'U! THE PEOPLE NEED TO STEP FOR KA'U WILL BE KA'U MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY will look into it.

(L) NOT POINTING FINGER AT NO ASSOCIATION!! OHA should stand neutral and not side, send support letter for AKTA and the Ka'u communities are like us, opposing and OHA never even, come Ka'u and talk or ask the people how we feel. SHAME ON YOU OHA! we most of us are registered Hawaiian - KANAKA MAOLI - SHAME SHAME ON YOU! TPL the map picture of Manakala fishing Village that's wrong you did in 2019 you created Manakala Point on Maniania Pali, False Information, HEWA!

M), Publishing Pictures on Social media of Kiolaka'a - Kamakalepo or we know as Ka'alualu Cave this drew people from Nāmea, tourist, visitors this area as I sent PDNC in February its a Puuhonua - A Refuge due to History. And AKTA wants to malama this — they shouldn't for us its too precious and they will destroy Kāpulu cannot! I feel researching the Archeologist remarks — he I believe wanted this place hidden so it does not be destroyed KAPU KAPU!!! BUNK!

N), PDNC shame shame. Not listening to the Communities. This is money from the 20% Funds. Public access and yet lock gates, rules on paper. Pushing the Communities the people from gathering rights, who's monitoring AKTA checking on money expenses. Being its the Public money you would think this nonprofit let the Communities know of what they doing with OUR money — Nothing!!

* PDNC - REQUESTING TO AUDIT THE BOOKS!!

O), Kiolaka'a Ahupua'a - Ka'alualu Bay we know looking onto maps? There are 3 different Ahupua'a Kawela - Kiolaka'a - Wai'ōmao Ka'alualu Bay sits on Anderson UC and Bishop Estate and the Ponds as stated on map belongs to the state of Hawaii as owners. So the question is Is the State of Hawaii and Bishop Estate Selling this to AKTA in this Acquisition — We want to know ??? We found out Bishop Estate, they are not selling and worker were upset to see there property in the media, newspaper, AKTA flyer for Feb 16 2021 Zoom meeting. WRONG!!

P) Mahakala - We know it was dropped by AKTA. Keoni Fox with drew Mahakala from the application (Mar 15 2021) It is in the Kawela or Kōwala Ahupua'a, not Kaunamano. Like Waikapuna is in Kahilipali Nui, Kamilo in Wai'ōhinu. Really do they research.

Q) AKTA should stay too there true mission when they were created by National Park. Maulea/Makai - Kahakai Trail, and one picture on line AKTA is to malama the trails not deface by adding to the trail they taking away the true history STOP IT! Mahalo Nui due to All and more. This is Why I OPPOSE! NOT TO GIVE NO MONEY GRANTS TO ALA KAHAKAI TRAIL ASSN.

Mahalo, Judge, Nima

Aloha Beek

P.O. Box 824

Naalehu, HI 96712

"Acquisition Of Kiolaka'a"

March 26, 2021

Dear Hce @ hawaii.gov, David G. Smith,

My name is Aloha Beek lifetime Kanaka maoli of Kau. I am writing this testimony in OPPOSITION of the acquisition of Kiolaka'a. I watch and heard what was said by AKTA, Keoni Fox. Well he cannot be TRUSTED what he talk is not truth he no could answer honestly at our meeting, March 6, 2021 at Punaluu Pavilion. This was the first time ever I met Keoni Fox surely, he not from Kau, giving credit to his Aunt and family, they No was there to support him. Preserving the coastline, we all like this, but not this AKTA control, rules they set is pushing the communities people out where we cannot gather salt and others la'au (medicines) we use, Historic Sites the ranchers have to be responsible to help by fencing off "Wahipana". So the cattle now is walking all over them. Its AKTA and Rancher, do be RESPECTFUL and be very RESPONSIBLE! Did they survey all there place Guess NOT NO MANAGEMENT PLAN for NONE of THE LANDS, THEY GOTTEN! and the Grants, money? PONE, TPL, etc and are they checking doing monitoring really checking how there monies are used? Lots of us the Kau Communities NO TRUST, CANNOT TRUST cause he should have started from the beginning. Now its hard to Trust AKTA and only one person deciding for them and looking at this, they NO get control on their association. Again for this I do oppose... TRUST WILL TAKE TIME!! They don't need any more lands they cannot take care of!! The Kau District people Can!! Can!! Mahalo,
Aloha Beek

[EXTERNAL] Letter of Opposition

Jessie Ke

Sun 3/28/2021 8:27 PM

To: Penn, David <david.penn@hawaii.gov>

March 26, 2021

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Jesse K. I am a Kupuna and a resident of Ka'u. Recently I testified before the Board of Land and Natural Resources in opposition to Ala Kahakai Trail Association to acquire Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a. Time has passed but the issue still have not been addressed nor resolved. Mr. Fox, on behalf of AKTA have held one virtual meeting February 17, 2021 and attended a meeting held by members of Ka'u Multi Cultural Society. The results was nothing was resolved. This organization AKTA wants you to listen but they have no intention to listen to the community. They have prove themselves to be poor stewards of the Land. Their actions speaks louder than their words. When you say one thing and do something else then you lose the trust of the community. Since 2016 AKTA has ample amount of time and opportunity to approach the Ka'u Multi Cultural Society, The Kupuna Pel Defense and other Ka'u organizations to work with but they chose to exclude the community during their planning. I strongly remain in opposition that AKTA not be granted the funds of \$1,475,000 for the Land acquisition of Kiolaka'a Land in Ka'u.

Mahalo,
Jessie Ke

Sent from my iPhone

[EXTERNAL] Notification of Oral Testimony

Emma Keohokalole

Sun 3/28/2021 10:05 PM

To: DLNR.FW.LLCC <llcc@hawaii.gov>

Attn: Chairperson, LLCC

I would like to provide oral testimony for the meeting that is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31st, 2021, 2:00 pm via Zoom.

Testifier's name: Emalia Keohokālole
Family Representative, 'Ohana Keohokālole, NHO

Agenda item: Review and Reconsider Commission Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Award

If you have any questions on any of the above, please contact me. Mahalo.

March 26, 2021

To whom it may concern,

My name is Paulette Kaihilani Ke and I was born in Pahala and raised on Kapapala Ranch in Kau. I am 100% Hawaiian and currently reside in Volcano. I was told, by Ohana, about Ala Kahakai Trail Association's interest to acquire 1,842.3 acres at Kioloakaa and 348 acres at Manakaa in Kau. I am writing to share my opposition and concerns to granting land acquisitions in Kau to this group.

I am wondering why meetings are attended usually and only by Keoni Fox. If he is representing AKT why is it that he cannot make decisions nor return with answers. There were many suggestions and ideas shared at meetings attended by Keoni and the most response I was given is, "Auntie, I really liked your ideas." Those requests I asked were:

1. A member from each Kau Club/Organization should be on AKT Board of Directors
2. A member from each Kau Club/Organization should be on the Stewardship Committee
3. A member from each Kau Club/Organization should be on The Community Based Management Planning Committee

There have been a history of many interested people/parties to financially benefit from acquiring, developing and selling our aina. I have been given various reasons for owning the aina in Kau but none seems to resonate in sharing and welcoming the Ohana who live in Kau and to the Ohana whose history and piko is tied to Kau. The King's Trail is sacred and should be accessible to Hawaiians but made impossible when gates are locked. Instead there are rules and regulations, stipulations, locked gates and threats for removal of pets. Needless to say there are many unforeseen and underlying agendas.

AKT had ample time to address the community and organizations in Kau. AKT's kuleana was to approach the community and seek positive feedback from the beginning. This is pono.

Needless to say my conviction remains the same. I am steadfast in my opposition for AKT acquisition of Kioloakaa and Manakaa.

Sincerely,

Paulette Kaihilani Ke

From: [kaleo paik](#)
To: [Penn, David](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 72, Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 2:00 PM
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 10:57:13 AM

Yrs o would like to have oral testimony space. Mahalo.

From: [Ann Bosted](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Legacy Land Conservation Commission meeting 72
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 2:10:53 PM

Aloha Mr. Penn,

I would like to offer verbal testimony during the zoom meeting of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting No. 72 on Wed. March 31 at 2:00 p.m.

My name is Annie Bosted

The agenda item is the grant to the Ala Kahakai Trail Association for the purchase of Kiolaka'a in Ka'u on the Island of Hawai'i.

If you need any more information, kindly let me know.
Mahalo,
Annie

Derrick & Rachel Velez
P. O. Box 685
Naʻalehu, Hawaiʻi 96772
March 21, 2021

Suzanne Case, Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) Chair; and Members of Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)
State of Hawaii
Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Suzanne Case, BLNR Chair: and BLNR Members: Christopher Yuen, Hawaiʻi Member, James A. Gomes, Maui Member, Thomas Oi, Kauai Member, Samuel "Olu" Gon III, Oahu Member, Vernon Char, At Large, and Wesley "Kaiwi" Yoon, At Large
RE: C. Division of Forestry and Wildlife

B. Ala Kahakai Trail Association (AKTA), \$1,475,000, for acquisition of approximately 1,841.3 acres at Kaʻu, Hawaiʻi (Kiolakaʻa), TMK #- (3) 9-4-001:008, (3) 9-4-001:009, (3) 9-4-001:016 & 017 (and :023, pending final county enrollment of new parcel): and

C. Ala Kahakai Trails Association (AKTA), \$875,000, for the acquisition of approximately 348 acres at Kaʻu, Hawaiʻi (Manakaʻa Fishing Village), TMK #- (3) 9-5-010:036.

We are STRONGLY OPPOSED AND DISAPPROVE of ANY/ALL grant awards from Land Conservation Funds for the acquisition of BOTH Ala Kahakai Trails Association: B. Kiolakaʻa and C. Manakaʻa, Kaʻu Hawaiʻi.

We are born and raised in Kaʻu. My husband is a descendant of Luther Macomber and Kahula Kekuhaupiʻo (daughter of Aliʻi Kekuhaupiʻo and Pine) of Waiohinu, Kaʻu. My family name is Ballesteros from the Philippines and Kaaua, long time residents of upper South Point Road, Naʻalehu, Pahala and Puna. My husband, is 57 years old and was raised on Kahuku Ranch, Kaʻu and I am 50 years old and was born and raised in Naʻalehu, Kaʻu. We have 6 children between us and 3 grandchildren. My husband and 4 out of the 6 children graduated from Kaʻu High School and I graduated from Kamehameha Schools, Kapalama Campus. We left Kaʻu for school and work BUT we ALWAYS managed to make our way back home to Kaʻu.

We have shared part of our genealogy to emphasize how deep our roots in Kaʻu go. Especially where our hearts lay. We have raised our children in the bosom of Mama Kaʻu and have taught them the importance of respecting and taking care of all she has bestowed upon us. We have

Suzanne Case, Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) Chair; and Members of Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

March 21, 2021

Page 2

taught them that you take what you need to sustain life and to take care of all the resources available to them so that our future generations will have what they had growing up. They have grown into adults that still malama (take care) of the aina and in turn are teaching our mo'opuna what we have passed down to them. Respect for the land and for the people of Ka'u, respect for protocols and what is acceptable as human being has been taught at a young age.

Then here comes Ala Kahakai Trails Association, whose board members are not from Ka'u, they may have genealogical ties here BUT since they weren't raised here they do not comprehend protocols and what true respect for the lands and people of Ka'u truly means. Lies upon lies keep surfacing, no communications with Kupuna of Ka'u and clear evidence of picking and choosing who they want to be included in their dealings.

In January, due to testimonies of Kupuna and concerned residents and people that love Ka'u, Ala Kahakai Trails Association's proposal for funds to acquire more lands in Ka'u, was deferred. Now they are proposing to appeal the January 2021 decision of deferral. Once again, Kupuna and residence of Ka'u was not aware of this. We found out from someone on the mainland about this meeting.

Also petitions have been circulating using the terms "CONSERVATION/PRESERVATION of Ka'u. People signed thinking it was helping Ka'u but what they were doing was helping Ala Kahakai Trails Association to acquire lands and to continue locking gates and preventing Ka'u residence from accessing the shorelines unless they sign applications for access. Ala Kahakai Trails Association has no management plan even if they acquired Waikapuna back in 2017. And they want more lands? They continuously pick and choose who they want to attend their meetings. The last meeting they had was via ZOOM. Which meant Kupuna that do not have access to WIFI or are computer illiterate was not able to attend the meeting so they did not get input from the very people that they should've been collaborating with. This does not seem PONO to us.

So please, VOTE NO to this appeal for funding. Nothing has been done to protect important historical archaeological sites, nesting areas for Green Sea Turtles and Hawaiian Monk Seals and the sea life that we depend on for food, like a'ama, opihi, limu etc. Also our freedom to go down to the beaches with our families without having to fill out an application for access is being denied. Our rights as residence of Ka'u is being DENIED.

Mahalo for your patience and understanding,

Derrick & Rachel Velez

P. O. Box 685

Na'alehu, Hawai'i 96772

[EXTERNAL] Request for Spoken Testimony 3/31/21 Agenda Item 2

Jodie Rosam

Mon 3/29/2021 6:01 PM

To: DLNR.FW.LLCC <llcc@hawaii.gov>

Aloha,

My name is Jodie Rosam.

I would like to request the opportunity to provide spoken testimony on 3/31/21 for Agenda Item 2: Review and Reconsider Commission Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Award (possible Action Item): Ala Kahakai Trail Association, \$1,475,000, for the acquisition of approximately 1,841.3 acres at Ka'ū, Hawai'i (Kiolaka'a), Tax Map Key Numbers (3) 9-4-001:008, :009, :016, :017, and :023.

Thank you!

Jodie Rosam –

March 28, 2021

State of Hawai'i
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Legacy Land Conservation Commission

Re: SUPPORT for Agenda Item 2: Ala Kahakai Trail Association, \$1,475,000, for the acquisition of approximately 1,841.3 acres at Ka'ū, Hawai'i (Kiolaka'a), Tax Map Key Numbers (3) 9-4-001:008, :009, :016, :017, and :023

Aloha Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

Please consider this letter to hold my statement of **strong support** for the protection of Kiolaka'a. Protection of Kiolaka'a is imperative in terms of supporting landscape-scale conservation of rare ecosystems, coastal and recreational resources, cultural sites, and history.

My name is Jodie Rosam, and I am a resident of Ka'ū (Kiolaka'a Ahupua'a). I live in one of the last homes in Green Sands Subdivision, which shares an access road to the proposed subdivision in the Kiolaka'a parcel. Our family also owns nearly 50 acres in Kiolaka'a, bordering the parcel, as well as several properties in the Green Sands Subdivision. I have a background in conservation and ecology in Hawai'i and a passion for Hawaiian archaeology. I am the mother of two young children that call Kiolaka'a their backyard and a co-teacher in a homeschool group in Kiolaka'a, and am committed to teaching our children to live sustainably, responsibly, and respectfully from a place-based and global perspective.

Ka'alu'alu Road extends from the Māmalahoa Highway to Ka'alu'alu Bay, the makai extent of Kiolaka'a. Below the subdivision (and directly below our home) it turns narrow, rough, and only accessible via 4WD vehicles. This road was the original trail from Ka'alu'alu Bay to Wai'ōhinu and Nā'ālehu, then became the cart road from Princess Ruth Ke'elikōlani's Ka'alu'alu Ranch at Ka'alu'alu Bay to Wai'ōhinu and the Hutchinson Sugar Plantation in Nā'ālehu. There are historic temporary habitation caves directly adjacent to the road that were used during travel from the Bay to town. There are lava tube systems adjacent to and even under the current road that served multiple purposes for those living in the area and traveling mauka-makai. Just imagine the conversations had and the meals shared along this historic trail! There is something to be said about traversing this trail as was done historically, and creating that connection already speaks volumes for protection of this land. This historic road is slated to serve as the primary easement into the Kiolaka'a parcel upon subdivision by the current landowner. It is proposed to be widened to 60 feet, destroying historic sites along the roadside, and ultimately *destroying a historic trail and historic road*.

Descending Ka'alu'alu Road towards Ka'alu'alu Bay, you get a glimpse of Kiolaka'a over the tops of the haole koa trees. Wiliwili trees begin to pop up in the canopy among the alahe'e and lama. As you make your way into the forest, the diversity is surprising. Still thriving in the midst of decades of cattle ranching is a beautiful lowland dry forest. These ecosystems are arguably

the most endangered ecosystem on our Earth, threatened primarily by habitat fragmentation and development. This forest serves as a source of seeds and genetic variability for many rare and endangered plant species, as well as a potential habitat for the reintroduction of previously extirpated species that formerly thrived in this area. *Development would not only harm these individuals directly, but it would be a major loss for the conservation of the species and of the ecosystem type.* Development would also intensely fragment an already protected landscape, as the lands crossing several ahupua'a in both directions are already protected in perpetuity. *To lose the lowland dry forest of Kiolaka'a would be detrimental for the greater conservation of this fragile ecosystem.*

Beyond the forest, Ka'alu'alu Road opens up to an unobstructed view from Waikapuna to Kamilo. As you cross the younger lava flow and enter into the landscape, the history of this 'aina begins to reveal itself. There lies Kamakalepo Settlement, a major wahi pana of the area. Within are countless historical sites that are in need of proper protection. *This entire settlement is threatened by the development and subdivision of Kiolaka'a.* The landscape is dotted with agricultural and housing complexes, burials, and caves utilized for habitation, refuge, and water collection. With the current variance to the landowner, the extent of Kiolaka'a does not require a full archaeological inventory survey, rather only asks the land owner to complete a survey within 100 feet of the primary access road. This puts thousands of historical sites at heightened risk of desecration. *It is like losing pages from a history book - once these sites are gone, we lose more than the physical form, we lose the deep history that truly connects us to the 'aina and to those who came before us.*

Finally, Ka'alu'alu Road ends at Ka'alu'alu Bay, where the Kiolaka'a parcel jets out to a fine tip at the eastern side of the bay. Ka'alu'alu Bay was a canoe landing / launching site, then becoming a major stop over for steamships, and finally an important economic harbor for both Ka'alu'alu Ranch and the Hutchinson Sugar Plantation. Ka'alu'alu Bay contained one of the few fishponds known to Ka'u, a major freshwater source at Kapenako Spring, anchialine pools, and ancient trails that traversed the landscape, connecting ahupua'a along the coastline. Historically, Ka'alu'alu Bay was prized and heavily utilized. Today, Ka'alu'alu Bay is still adored by the Ka'u community, and is used by fishermen and families, for subsistence and for recreation. It provides an excellent outdoor classroom to teach our children about marine and terrestrial environments, fishing practices, and history. *It is imperative that we do everything in our power to protect this coastline.*

The acquisition of Kiolaka'a by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) will *not limit access or prevent gathering rights within the parcel, nor will they be in charge of the management.* ATA has not limited access to other recently-acquired parcels, a common misconception (Waikapuna, for example), as current gates and access protocols have not changed in decades. Furthermore, a community-based management plan will be created for Kiolaka'a upon acquisition by ATA. It is important to highlight the value of community-based management in Ka'u. Including the descendants of these lands and those who are current practitioners is imperative for proper and successful management, as is including those with specialties in the scientific aspects of the landscape to ensure proper protection of rare and endangered species,

anchialine pools, etc. ATA is committed to facilitating the creation of a non-biased community management plan so that the voices of the greater Ka'ū community are heard, and this land can be stewarded as the community wants. Personally, I do fully recognize and respect the differing opinions within our community. I myself have presented this information at the farmer's markets, have taken our District 5 House Representative to the site and garnered her full support, and broadcast information on the community radio station, and I have received *overwhelming support* for the protection of Kiolaka'a. I truly believe that we can work together, regardless of opinions. I want to emphasize that *this is not about the Ala Kahakai Trail Association. This is about the land. And we need to be able to separate personal discrepancies from the greater purpose, which is to SAVE KIOLAKA'A.*

My heart tells me this is possible, and that this is what the land wants. Ka'ū is resilient. We stand together and move mountains, only because we are serving those that came before us, and those that will follow in our footsteps. As a land-steward of the area, a community member, a conservationist, an ecologist, an educator, and a Mother, I see the protection of Kiolaka'a to be top priority for an endless list of reasons. *I thank you, Legacy Land Conservation Commission, for continuing to support the protection of Kiolaka'a.*

He ali'i ka 'aina; he kauwā ke kanaka.

Jodie Rosam
808-987-8681
jodie.rosam@gmail.com

(No subject)

Kevin

Mon 3/29/2021 6:15 PM

To: DLNR.FW.LLCC <llcc@hawaii.gov>

Aloha

My name is Kevin Sean O'Connor

I would like to provide testimony on; the meeting on 3/31 to Review and Reconsider Commission Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Award (possible Action Item):

Ala Kahakai Trail Association, \$1,475,000, for the acquisition of approximately 1,841.3 acres at Ka'ū, Hawai'i (Kiolaka'a), Tax Map Key Numbers (3) 9-4-001:008, :009, :016, :017, and :023

I look forward to the opportunity to provide testimony. Please let me know if there is anything else required to provide testimony.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Mahalo,

Kevin O'Connor

[EXTERNAL] Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 72, 3/31/21

Pelehonuamea Harman

Mon 3/29/2021 7:04 PM

To: DLNR.FW.LLCC <llcc@hawaii.gov>

Aloha,

My name is **Pelehonuamea Harman** and I would like to provide live testimony during the Legacy Land Conservation Commission's online meeting on 3/31 regarding the Kiolaka'a, Ka'u project ranking.

Mahalo.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,
Pelehonuamea Harman

[EXTERNAL] Kiolakaa makai land protection

Shalan Crysdale

Mon 3/29/2021 7:07 PM

To: DLNR.FW.LLCC <llcc@hawaii.gov>

Aloha,

My name is Shalan Crysdale and would like to provide my spoken support for acquisition of Kiolakaa lands in Kau.

Thank you,

Shalan

[EXTERNAL] Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 72- Request to Provide Testimony

William Keoni Fox

Mon 3/29/2021 7:07 PM

To: DLNR.FW.LLCC <llcc@hawaii.gov>

I am submitting a request to provide live public testimony at the LLCP meeting on Wednesday.

Keoni Fox, Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Agenda Item 2, Review and Reconsider Commission Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Award

[EXTERNAL] Oral Testimony request March 31, 2012

Michelle Galimba

Mon 3/29/2021 8:02 PM

To: DLNR.FW.LLCC <llcc@hawaii.gov>

Aloha, I would like to testify by Zoom at Wednesdays LLC meeting:

Michelle Galimba

Item #2

Mahalo!

[EXTERNAL] Live testimony 3/31 in regards to Kiolaka'a, Ka'ū

Naliipoaimoku Harman

Mon 3/29/2021 8:08 PM

To: DLNR.FW.LLCC <llcc@hawaii.gov>

To the esteemed members of the Legacy Land Commission,
I would very much like to provide live testimony during the Land Legacy Commission's online meeting on 3/31 regarding the Kiolaka'a, Ka'ū project ranking. My contact info. is as follows:

Nāli‘ipō‘aimoku Harman

Mahalo for your kind consideration of this request.

Me ka mahalo,
Nāli'ipō'aimoku Harman

From: [Nohea Ka'awa](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Spoken Testimony; Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 72
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 7:24:33 AM

Aloha LLCC,

Here is the information for me to provide live testimony during the online meeting, using telephone or internet connection.

- testifier's name; Nohealani Kaawa
- agenda item(s) for testimony; Ala Kahakai Trail Association, \$1,475,000, for the acquisition of approximately 1,841.3 acres at Ka'u, Hawai'i (Kiolaka'a), Tax Map Key Numbers (3) 9-4-001:008, :009, :016, :017, and :023 at Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 72, Wednesday, March 31, 2021 @ 2pm

Mahalo,

Nohealani Kaawa

From: [Alan Brown](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Kiolaka'a
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 7:54:15 AM

I am writing in support of the purchase of the Kiolaka'a land (1,841.3 acres) in Ka'u Hawai'i TMKs: (3) 9-4-001:008,016,017, 023 for the sum
Of \$1,475,000 by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association.

Mahalo,
Alan L. Brown
PO Box 2047
Kamuela, HI
96743

From: [LESLIE CARDONE](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#); [Jodie Rosam](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE Agenda Item 2 to Review Kiolaka'a Acquisition
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 8:30:45 AM

Dear Legacy Land Conservation Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to go forward to the BLNR with the grant of \$1.475M to Kaliaki Trail Association for acquisition of 1,841 acres known as the Kiolaka'a area of Ka'u. There are so many reasons why this should be approved, but I will state what I consider the most important. As a species we must stop planning piecemeal to carve up open land in sensitive and archaeological rich areas to the latest development schemes, however well-intentioned yet ill-considered in the big picture of planetary health. We need to preserve at All Costs the 30 percent of lands that are still not completely spoiled for the benefit of all creatures and for the continuation of humans on this planet. It is simple. For this relatively small cost an invaluable piece of Big Island will be protected for perpetuity. Housing sprawls from this time forward, in my view, should only be considered in areas that do Not pertain to this sort of status. There are plenty of those areas to choose from. Therefore, please send this proposed Kaliaki Trail Association grant request intact to the BLNR immediately with your blessing. It is the right thing to do.

From: [Kalea Hinau](#)
To: [Penn, David](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 72, Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 2:00 PM
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:39:54 AM

Aloha e David,

Unfortunately, I am not able to change my schedule to attend the zoom meeting. Please know that I do NOT SUPPORT this HEWA. Remember, na `aina belongs to the people of Ka`u.

Sharon Leong Moraes

From: [Sandra.reha](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aquisition of Kau Lands
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:23:55 AM

Committee :

I do NOT like the way this purchase sounds.

No way! Keep this for the people and coastal protection.

Sandra Reha
8089280151
Wood Valley, Kau Dist.

From: [Debbie Ward](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Legacy Lands Sierra Club testimony Kiolaka"a
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:37:54 AM
Attachments: [Sierra Club testimony Kiolaka"a Legacy Lands 3.30.2021.docx](#)

I would like to testify in support of finding Kiolaka'a, Item 2 on the agenda.

Deborah J Ward



SIERRA CLUB

HAWAII ISLAND GROUP

March 30, 2021

Aloha, Legacy Land Commissioners,

Subject: **Support Grant funds for Kiolaka'a**

My name is ----Deborah Ward, and as Chair of the Hawaii Island Group of Sierra Club, my testimony represents the support of over 800 members, some of whom are Native Hawaiian practitioners, hikers, scientists, recreational users and conservation activists. One of many services our club offers is hikes that are led by certified leaders to wild lands at no cost to the public. I am writing today to ask you to protect Kiokaka'a, coastal property in Ka'u. Many of us have known and loved this area for many years. We feel very strongly that it is a resource that is too precious to lose to development. I have recently been appointed and confirmed as representative to the Hawaii County Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission (PONC) for District 5, and have had the opportunity to review the files on this proposal.

BLNR will be considering a recommendation by the State Legacy Land Conservation Commission to grant an award for the preservation of Kiolaka'a at Ka'alu'alu Bay by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) in April. An application was submitted to the State Legacy Land Commission in 2019 and out of twelve applications across the State, this two Ka'u property was ranked #2. Sierra Club members and hundreds of others worked hard to protect the lands that include "Road to the Sea", prized by local fishers in Kahuku, and we believe this would be a significant and valuable addition to the protected natural landscape.

Protection of the Ka'u coastline has been a long-standing goal of our community. With only a handful of privately owned properties at risk of development, this vision of protecting the entire Ka'u coastline can be achieved. A preservation purchase would protect this beautiful stretch of coastline which has been threatened by development interests for many years. This and other properties have been targeted for large scale subdivisions. These developments would impact numerous cultural sites throughout the landscape as well as sensitive native plant habitat, open space and public access. As part of Sierra Club's commitment to community-based stewardship and management, we are willing to work with the community to create a management plan for the land. The management plan will address elements such as public access, education and resource protection. This property is currently listed for sale and it is possible that either the existing owner or new owners could continue with development plans if we are unable to raise the funds.

Recently we took part in a virtual community discussion (2.16.21) to be sure that our community does have consensus about the high priority protection of our critical lands. John Replogle led off the discussion, reminiscing about kupuna Pele Hanoa, who pledged to protect this land in perpetuity. Brent Kakasako and Bog Agres facilitated the discussion.

The following is a list (but is not comprehensive) of Ka'u residents and supporters who took part in the community meeting: Leah Lani Rothbaum, Angelica Peneran, Reyna Ramolette Hayashi, Kaleo Paik, Fred Kanali Meinecke, Leilani Rodrigues, Jodie, Rosam, Annie Bosited, Pelehonuamea Suganuma, Keoni Fox, La'akea, Suganuma, Flora Krivak-Tetely, Scott Mahoney, Nanea Bekeart, Richard Taylor, Leivalyn Kaupu,

Michelle Galimba, Pua Yang, Ethan Souza, Kala Keahealani Wright, Otis Salmo, Lea Hong, Angelica Penaran, Pua Yang, Mel Yokyama, Brown Leiokeko'olani, Lynn Hamilton, Julia Neal, Carol Fong, Luana Fox, Leimana Damate, Melanie Seyler, Nohealani Ka'awa, Bob Martin, Aina Akamu, Kaimi Kaupiko, Wendy Vance, Jackson Bauer, Jon Oshima, Kaohi Mokuhalii, Rae, Donna Ambrose, Monte McComber, Katie Graham.

The outcome of the meeting was a consensus that the purchase of the land is of the highest importance, and that the specifics of management, pedestrian and vehicular access, kupuna access, and maintenance are all aspects of care that can and will be addressed in meetings with community members to follow. We agreed that if this land were to be developed for private holdings, significant cultural, archaeological and natural resources could be lost forever.

For this reason we believe that the Legacy Land grant is in the best interest of the Ka'u community, the Hawaii Island Community, and the state as a whole.

Thank you for considering this testimony in support.

Deborah Ward, Chair, Hawaii Island Group, Sierra Club

From:
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#); [Smith, David G](#); [Penn, David](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to the Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 11:08:19 AM

To: The Legacy Land Conservation Commission 03/30/2021

From: Pernell Hanoa life-long Ka'u resident and lineal descendant of the Apiki, Kaheananui ,
Kuaimoku, and Hanoa Ohana

Subject: Opposition to the Ala Kahakai Trail Association Land Acquisition

Aloha,

My name is Pernell Hanoa, and I am writing to you in strong opposition to the acquisition of interests and rights in specific parcels of land having value as a resource to the State, for: B. Ala Kahakai Trail Association, \$1,475,000, for the acquisition of approximately 1,841.3 acres at Ka'u,

Primary Concerns:

1. Protection of Historical/Cultural Burial sites.
2. Coastal protection, beach access.
3. Habitat Protection.
4. Natural resources protection
5. Recreational vehicle restrictions
6. Watershed protection
7. Open space protection
8. Hunting and gathering access
9. Selective and limited community input.
10. Restricted access to Ka'u residence to parcels AKTA already purchased.
11. Why board members who are not from Ka'u interested in Ka'u.

It is my hope that the Legacy Land Conservation Commission strongly consider my concerns for my opposition and request the following actions before considering ANY Land awards.

1. Request AKTA provide a written management plan on how they will address the concerns listed above.
2. Full disclosure of all purchases, payments, or expenditures from all monetary/grant awards.
3. Have AKTA hold a minimum of (6) community meetings whether in person or virtual to inform the community of their purpose and intent before ALL land considerations.

I submitted these concerns to the BLNR on January 19, 2021. I have not received a response from BLNR or The Ala Kahakai Trail Assoc. to this date.

Respectfully,
Pernell Hanoa
President of The Ka'u Advisory Council

March 27, 2021

Mr David Penn, Program Specialist
Legacy Land Conservation
Forestry ProgramsS-DOFAW

Subject: Acquisition of Kiolaka'a

Aloha Mr Penn,

I am writing this letter to strongly oppose the acquisition of Kiolaka'a by the Alakahakai Trails Association. As a kupuna myself I have seen my own one hānau totally overcome with devopment and our people no longer able to survive here. My own children cannot afford to live here. Therefore, I stand behind the kupuna of Ka'u, who strive to protect and keep the land in order to perpetuate their history and culture for the generations to follow. Selling the 'aina to those who would develop the land for eco-tourism or any other form of development that does not benefit the people of Ka'u is not acceptable to me.

Please consider this letter of opposition to the sale of Kiolaka'a to Alakahakai Trails Association.

Na'u 'o Nona B. Wilson

Cc: file

March 30, 2021

Legacy Land Commission

Re: Letter in Support of PONC Funding for the Purchase and Protection of Kiolaka'a

Aloha Commissioners,

Kuahiwi Ranch would like to express strong support for the purchase and protection of Kiolaka'a in Ka'u, Hawai'i Island by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association. Preserving cultural resources and agricultural land is an important use of Legacy Land funds so that future generations can enjoy the beauty and heritage of our beloved island.

Kuahiwi Ranch, based in Na'alehu, Ka'u, raises grass-fed, free-range beef cattle for local markets. Cattle ranching has been a part of Ka'u's economy for over a hundred years and has helped to preserve the open landscape of Ka'u while still providing food and revenue for Ka'u. It was a privilege to grow up in a landscape that still bears the traces and memories of pre-contact and post-contact Hawai'i. We hope that we can pass that privilege and landscape on to the next generation, and the one after that.

Kiolaka'a is a 1,836-acre property south of Waiohinu Town that includes intact native dry-land forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka'alu'alu Bay, and portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system. The cave system features a fortress with an elevated defensive wall and 102 sleeping platforms, built during the wars with Kamehameha. Other cultural sites include heiau, habitation sites, petroglyphs, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. A network of trails lead to Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teeming with two varieties of 'opae 'ula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka'u's paniolo traditions.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Ka'u community's long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate our rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture.

Mahalo,

Michelle Galimba

VP, Kuahiwi Ranch/Kuahiwi Contractors, Inc.

michelle@kuahiwiranch.com

(808) 430-4927

From: [jackie orsa](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Protect the Kiolaka'a coastline
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 12:46:39 PM

Aloha,

I am writing to ask that the Legacy Land Commissions recommend that BLNR protects the Kiolaka'a coastline from future planned development. The pristine and abundant ecosystem provides resources for the islands people, land, and animals. Once this land is developed on in the proposed method ties to the culturally significant land that provides food, shelter and life to the indigenous people of this place will be severed. There is irreplaceable damage that will be done to the environment and to the Hawaiian culture if this land is developed on.

While luxury developments provide income for the state and jobs for the local population - there are many other ways to create jobs that bring revenue in a much more responsible way that focuses on benefiting the local community and acknowledging the culture of the land.

Thank you for the consideration,

Jackie Orsa

--

From: [Tomislav Gracanin/Veda Hackell](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kiolaka'a Sign up for spoken testimony
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 12:48:58 PM

Greetings!

My name is Tomislav Gracanin, A Ka'u resident.

I would like to give testimony in support of review of grant
award Ala Kahakai Trail Association for the purchase of
KIOLAKA' A

Tomislav Gracanin

March 30, 2021

Board and Members

Legacy Land Conservation Commission

Division of Forestry and Wildlife

State of Hawai'i

Honolulu, HI.

Subject: Support the Protection of Kiolaka'a

I, Luana Evalani (Keanu) Fox, was born and raised in Wai'ohinu, Kiolaka'a, Ka'u. My na'au reminds me that I am Ka'u. My Keanu and Kahakua Kupuna subsisted on fishing and agricultural products from this area. Presently, I own a homestead in Kiolaka'a. This ahupua'a provides cultural, social, and educational values and can provide financial benefits.

My family and others, fish along the coastline, pick opihi and limu, catch a'ama crabs, and gather salt. We also gather Keawe branches at Ka'alu'alu Bay as we spend the day relaxing in the vast precious area that so richly bless us with its abundance of resources.

The ahupua'a of Kiolaka'a, enriched with its native dryland forests with its rare and endangered species must be protected and preserved for future generations. The anchialine ponds and native vegetation must be protected. The people, the community of Ka'u must protect and preserve of what little that remains in Ka'u.

My ohana, the Keanu and Kahakua Ohana, and I are asking the board members of the Legacy Land and Division of Forestry and Wildlife to help us, the people of Ka'u, to protect and preserve the Ahupua'a of Kiolaka'a. We do not want this area to be bought out by people who will restrict us from the lifestyle we are accustomed to, to survive.

Mahalo nui loa,

Luana Evalani (Keanu) Fox

From: [Megan Lamson](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Cc: [Penn, David](#); [Bill Gilmartin](#); [Hannah Bernard](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public testimony for Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 72, Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 2:00 PM
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:06:18 PM
Attachments: [HWF_TPL_kiolakaa_sept2019.pdf](#)

Aloha Legacy Land Commissioners and David,

I'd love to share my voice of **wholehearted support** for the high ranking of Kiolaka'a by the State Legacy Land Commission on behalf of our team at Hawai'i Wildlife Fund. Please add me to tomorrow's agenda for oral testimony if space allows, otherwise see our letter of support that was shared with the Trust for Public Land team in September 2019. We are committed to help protect and steward this wahi pana, and will provide our expertise in the realm of anchialine pool and coastal dryforest restoration efforts, marine debris removal and community-based volunteer coordination in Ka'u to help the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (and the community!) steward this area into the future.

Agenda Item:

"Ala Kahakai Trail Association, \$1,475,000, for the acquisition of approximately 1,841.3 acres at Ka'u, Hawai'i (Kiolaka'a), Tax Map Key Numbers (3) 9-4-001:008, :009, :016, :017, and :023"

Please also feel free to reach out directly to me or any of our HWF team (Board and Officers) on this important topic!

If there is no longer space / time avail for testimony please let me know and I will revise this 2019 letter of support to reflect specifically how HWF will support coastal stewardship of these Kiolaka'a properties.

Many thanks for your time and consideration!

Me ka mahalo,
meg

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Megan R. Lamson Leatherman, M.S.
HAWAII WILDLIFE FUND
Hawai'i Island Program Director

PO Box 1801, Kealahou HI 96750

e: meg.HWF@gmail.com or megan@wildhawaii.org

<http://www.wildhawaii.org/>

debris hotline 808/769-7629

meg cell 808/217-5777

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Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

Post Office Box 70 • Volcano, HI • 96785

*Celebrating 23 years of protecting Hawai'i's native
wildlife through research, education and conservation.*

The Trust for Public Land
c/o Reyna Ramolete Hayashi
1003 Bishop St., Suite 740
Honolulu, HI 96813

5 September 2019

Re: Letter in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts
to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka'a, TMKs: (3) 9-4-001:008; (3) 9-4-001:009;
(3) 9-4-001:017.

To Whom It May Concern:

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association's efforts to purchase and protect Kiolaka'a in Ka'u, Hawai'i Island. Ala Kahakai Trail Association (AKTA)'s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai'i's past, present and future.

Kiolaka'a is a 1,836-acre property south of Wai'ōhinu Town that includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka'alu'alu Bay, and portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system. The cave system features a fortress with an elevated defensive wall and 102 sleeping platforms, built during the wars with Kamehameha. Other cultural sites include heiau, habitation sites, petroglyphs, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. A network of

trails lead to Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teeming with two varieties of 'ōpae 'ula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka'ū's paniolo traditions.

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund (HWF) is a small nonprofit organization that has been working to conserve native species in Hawai'i since 1996. During that time, we have been involved in research, education, restoration and advocacy projects related to marine debris, Hawaiian sea turtles, community-based management, environmental education, anchialine pool restoration, and more. During this time, we have also recovered over 300 tons (600,000 lbs.) of marine debris from the coastlines of Hawai'i Island, Maui and Midway with the help of thousands of volunteers, and can attest first-hand to the growing problem of plastic pollution in and around the Hawaiian islands and the threat this poses to our native flora and fauna. We hope that this purchase by the Ala Kahakai Trails Association will both help protect native plant and animal species, and the archeological history (and continued cultural use) of the area now and into the future. We look forward to working more with the AKTA to expand the capacity of our coastal conservation organization (and other partners like The Nature Conservancy), with support from the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources and the County of Hawai'i's Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Commission) to conserve the remote southern shores of Hawai'i Island.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Ka'ū community's long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate our rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for our community which still relies on subsistence fishing, farming, and gathering. Conserving this landscape will perpetuate cultural access for descendants and recreational access for travelers along the ancient trail allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka'ū's ancestors.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions about this letter of support.

Sincerely,



Megan R. Lamson, M.S.

President & Program Director

HWF - Hawai'i Island Program Director

megan@wildhawaii.org

(808) 217-5777

From: [christina.vien](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect Kiolaka's coastline
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:06:53 PM

Aloha,

I am writing to ask that the Legacy Land Commissions recommend that the BLNR protects the Kiolaka's coastline from future planned development. This pristine and abundant ecosystem provides resources for the island people, land and animals. Once this land is developed on in the proposed method, irreplaceable damage will be done to the environment. This land is culturally significant and provides food, shelter and life to the indigenous population.

While luxury developments provide income for the state and jobs for the local population, there are many other ways to create jobs that bring revenue in a much more responsible and respectful way that focuses on benefiting the local community and acknowledging the culture of the land.

Christina Vien
Kailua-Kona, HI

From: [Clair Mason](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony - Clair Mason
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:07:50 PM

Aloha,

My name is Clair Mason, and I am writing to you to submit written testimony in support of recommending that the Grant Recommendation to the BLNR be used for protecting Kiolaka'a.

This piece of land is sacred and the coastlines are home to some of Hawai'i's many native plants that are in danger of becoming extinct. This land is also home to many burial sites, habitations, and coastal fishing areas that must remain accessible to local people. We are in a climate and social justice crisis and this land must be preserved for the sake of our environment and Kanaka rights.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Clair Mason
808-741-0241
info@clairmason.com

From: [Aina Akamu](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 3/31 Mtg
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:15:36 PM

Aloha,

I would like to provide testimony at the 3/31 LLCC meeting.

My name is Aina Akamu.

I will speak on the Kiolaka'a project in Ka'u.

Mahalo nui loa!

Aina Akamu

From:
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kiolaka`a Testimony
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:18:48 PM

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my wholehearted support for the Ala Kahakai Trails Association's acquisition of the land at Kiolaka`a in Ka`u on the island of Hawaii.

Development on this land will negatively impact the cultural sites as well as the pristine native habitat. The urgent need to acquire this land for preservation cannot be overemphasized.

I am impressed by the level of community outreach that the Ala Kahakai Trail's Association has shown and am confident that they have the community's best interest in mind.

I have been a resident of Green Sands Subdivision for many years and am an active member in the Ka`u community. I have been an educator in the schools and currently run a community bookstore in Wai`ohinu. I have also served on the Steering Committee for the Ka`u Community Development Plan. It was while on this committee that I had the opportunity to hear the community's overwhelming support for the preservation of Our beautiful untouched coastline.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Donna Ambrose