From: Reyna Ramolete
To: DLNR.FW.LLCC

Cc: Lea Hong; William Keoni Fox; kaleo paik; Penn, David

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of LLC Agenda Item 2 - Renew Recommendation for FY 2021 Grant Award to

ATA for Kiolaka"a

Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:45:32 PM
Attachments: Kiolaka"a LLCC TPL Testimony 2021.03.30.pdf

Kiolakaa LOS Testimony reduced.pdf

Kiolaka"a Community Statement of Support reduced.pdf

Aloha Chair Haase and Commissioners,

Attached is The Trust for Public Land's Testimony in Support of Legacy Land Conservation Commission Agenda Item 2.

Please renew and reconfirm your strong recommendation for a fiscal year 2021 Grant Award to Ala Kahakai Trail Association to protect and acquire Kiolaka'a for community stewardship.

Also attached are 36 letters of support as well as 221 signatures from community members who support the protection of Kiolaka'a.

Mahalo, Reyna

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi Aloha 'Āina Project Manager



The Trust for Public Land
1003 Blshop Street, Suite 740
Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808.524.8562 | C: 808.983.9985

Creating parks and protecting land for people.

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March 30, 2021

Sent via email
State of Hawai'i
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Legacy Land Conservation Commission
llcc@hawaii.gov

Re: Testimony in Support of Legacy Land Conservation Commission Agenda Item 2 Renew Recommendation for FY 2021 Grant Award to Ala Kahakai Trail Association, \$1,475,000, for the acquisition of 1,841.3 acres at Ka'ū, Hawai'i (Kiolaka'a)

Aloha Chair Haase and Commissioners,

The Trust for Public Land is a non-profit land conservation organization and our mission is to protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. For over 42 years we've worked to protect over 56,000 acres and 43 special places throughout Hawai'i. Our Aloha 'Āina Program protects lands that are culturally and historically important to Native Hawaiian communities and returns these lands to Native Hawaiian organizations for community and cultural stewardship. Our Sustainable Hawai'i Program conserves lands that support local food production, our forests and their native species, and clean water sources with the goal of improving Hawai'i's self-sufficiency and food security.

The Trust for Public Land has been working with Ka'ū community organizations, residents, lineal descendants, and the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) to purchase and protect Kiolaka'a. The Ka'ū community has been working for years to permanently preserve its beloved 80 mile coast to honor Ka'ū's ancestors and allow all current and future generations to be nourished by these coastal lands. Kiolaka'a is part of a landscape level effort to protect the Ka'ū coast. In 2019 we helped to protect Waikapuna with County and State funds and Kāwala which will be kept in agriculture and cultural preservation through a privately funded conservation easement. We are currently working to conserve Kaunāmano with State and County funding as well as Manāka'a through a privately funded conservation easement. Combined, these projects protect a 6,600 acre cultural and natural landscape, connected by over 6 miles of the Ala Kahakai Trail.

Kiolaka'a is an undeveloped 1,841 acre property home to treasured natural and cultural resources including portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement, Lua Nunu cave system, the most extensive refuge cave on Hawai'i Island, heiau, habitation sites, intact native dryland forest, extensive trail network, miles of dry stack rock walls, native coastal plants, Kapenako fresh water spring, a complex of six anchialine ponds teeming with two varieties of 'ōpae 'ula, and the eastern shoreline of Ka'alu'alu Bay, a popular spot for fishing, diving, surfing, and camping. In the 1800s, the area was used for ranching starting with Ka'alu'alu Ranch owned by Princess Ruth Ke'elikōlani. Today, a portion of the property is licensed to Triple LLL Ranch and MJ Ranch for cattle grazing. Protecting these historic ranch lands would help Ka'ū perpetuate its paniolo history and continue ranching livelihoods and jobs.

In September 2019, this Commission ranked Kiolaka'a number 2 for fiscal year 2021 funding. In Sept 2020, the County PONC Commission also ranked Kiolaka'a number 2 for funding. This Commission ranking Kiolaka'a so highly in an extremely competitive pool of conservation projects speaks to the breadth of its rare and precious natural and cultural resources not found anywhere else in Hawai'i. Kiolaka'a continues to face acute threats of development as this pandemic has ushered in new waves of investors and developers hungry to acquire property in Hawai'i. If this Commission renews their recommendation and ranking of Kiolaka'a, and BLNR approves, this project will have secured both State and County funding, and we will be in a strong position to negotiate an agreement with the landowner to sell the property for conservation.

On January 22, 2021, the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) deferred a decision to approve grant award funding for Kiolaka'a because a several community members testified in opposition to the project. BLNR asked Ala Kahakai Trail Association to do further community engagement and "to talk to each other pretty seriously and try to sort this out in a way that gets as much agreement as possible."

Since the BLNR meeting, ATA has conducted extensive and inclusive community engagement and outreach to address questions and concerns raised at the BLNR meeting and unite the community as much as possible. TPL has been shoulder to should with ATA in their broad community engagement efforts. ATA humbly and sincerely reached out to individuals who testified in opposition, inviting them to meet and talk story. For those who responded and had one on one conversations, ATA was able to address misunderstandings and reservations and these community members had a change of heart. ATA scheduled phone, zoom and in-person meetings with community members and hosted a community meeting facilitated by an independent facilitator and advertised widely to the Kaʻū community, attended by over 60 people. ATA presented twice to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Kaʻū; shared at the Hawaiʻi Island Burial Council meeting; met with members of the Aha Moku Council of Kaʻū including individuals who were opposed; and set up a booth to engage with community members at the local Farmer's Market in Na'alehu.

Through this community engagement effort, ATA and TPL confirmed resounding community support to protect the Kaʻū coastline (including iwi kūpuna, cultural sites, and sensitive ecosystems) from development, including overwhelming support of ATA's efforts to protect and acquire Kiolaka'a. ATA and TPL confirmed that while there may be varying opinions about issues such as the extent, type and details of managed public access (pedestrian vs vehicular, cultural vs recreational, etc.) the need to secure public funding to protect the land from development now is the community's priority and outweighs management issues, which can and will be resolved through a community management planning process. The community also expressed that if ATA is successful in protecting Kiolaka'a, they want to be included as an integral part of ATA's community management planning process and stewardship efforts.

TPL supports place-based and community-driven natural and cultural resource management and believes that communities who have kuleana (responsibility) and pilina (relationship) to place have a right to determine how to best manage, protect and sustain their

oceans, lands and lifeways. ATA shares these values and to that end has made several commitments to the Ka'ū community if it is successful in protecting Kiolaka'a:

- ATA has committed to an inclusive community management planning process for Kiolaka'a which will likely be facilitated and drafted by an independent planning consultant hired by the County of Hawai'i which will hold the Conservation Easement.
- ATA has committed to inviting Ka'ū descendants, residents, non-profits, community groups, ranchers, and anyone who has a relationship to Kiolaka'a to participate in the community management planning process.
- ATA has committed to inviting Ka'ū descendants, residents, and organizations to partner on stewardship projects for Kiolaka'a and/or participate on the Stewardship Committee.
- ATA has committed to hosting quarterly community meetings to keep the Ka'ū community updated about its land protection efforts.

ATA's previous land protection efforts demonstrate their commitment to community-driven management and stewardship. For example, after closing Waikapuna, ATA formed a Stewardship Committee of eight Ka'ū leaders and residents to lead their stewardship and community management planning process for Waikapuna (Shalan Crysdale, Nohea Kaawa, Michelle Galimba, Kaohi Mokuhalii, Jodie Rosam, Megan Lamson, Pele Harmon and Leilani Rodrigues). Thus far, interim management of Waikapuna is guided by this Ka'ū-based Stewardship Committee. To plan for the long term management of Waikapuna, the County is in the process of hiring a professional planning consultant, to develop a comprehensive and inclusive community management plan in consultation with the broader community where everyone can participate and have a voice.

With ATA as the proposed future owner and steward of Kiolaka'a, there is new potential for community-based management. Local communities with relationships to place are in the best position to vision for the future management and stewardship of their waters, lands, and cultural and natural resources, and protect them for future generations. Protecting Kiolaka'a cannot happen without active participation and stewardship by the entire Ka'ū community.

We have attached 36 letters of support and testimony from our partners who support the protection of Kiolaka'a including: Ho'omalu Ka'ū, The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, The Mary Kawena Pūku'i Cultural Preservation Society, Makahanaloa Fishing Association, Sierra Club, Hui Aloha Kīholo, E Mau Na Ala Hele, Huliauapa'a, 'Ohana Keohokālole, The Cave Conservancy, MJ Ranch, Tripple LLL Ranch, Kuahiwi Ranch, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs among others. Also attached are 221 signatures from community members who support the protection of Kiolaka'a.

The Legacy Land Conservation Commission has a tremendous opportunity to protect and preserve Kiolaka'a where natural, cultural, and agricultural resources will be forever conserved by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association and stewarded in close partnership with the Ka'ū community. The Legacy Land Conservation Program not only conserves precious cultural and natural resources, but plays a critical role in diversifying our economy, supporting jobs in conservation and agriculture and enhancing our food security, making Hawai'i more resilient in future economic downturns. Please renew and reconfirm your strong recommendation for a fiscal year 2021 Grant Award to Ala Kahakai Trail Association to protect and acquire Kiolaka'a for community

stewardship.

Sincerely,

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi Aloha 'Āina Project Manager The Trust for Public Land

Enclosed:

- 221 Signatures on a Community Statement of Support
- 36 Letters & Testimony in Support
- 1. Hoʻomalu Kaʻū
- 2. The Nature Conservancy
- 3. Hawai'i Wildlife Fund
- 4. The Mary Kawena Pūku'i Cultural Preservation Society
- 5. Makahanaloa Fishing Association
- 6. Sierra Club
- 7. Hui Aloha Kīholo
- 8. E Mau Na Ala Hele
- 9. Huliauapa'a
- 10. 'Ohana Keohokālole
- 11. The Cave Conservancy
- 12. MJ Ranch
- 13. Tripple LLL Ranch
- 14. Kuahiwi Ranch
- 15. Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- 16. Representative Richard Creagan
- 17. Fred Meinecke
- 18. Kalahoʻohie Mossman
- 19. Jodie Rosam
- 20. Corie Yanger & Andrew Christie
- 21. Patrick Conant
- 22. Gary & Deborah Johnson
- 23. Selah Levine
- 24. Cherie Felzer
- 25. John P. Kalua'u
- 26. Angela Guidi & Soli Coleman
- 27. Kady Foster
- 28. Alex Wang
- 29. Kevin OConnor, Bee Boys LLC
- 30. Ryan Williamson, Bee Boys LLC
- 31. Jeremy Vaeni & Carol Fong

- 32. Iria Carmen
- 33. Caitlin Kryss & Taz Rosam
- 34. Justin Lee
- 35. Justin Yeh
- 36. Allan Franco



`Ōhi`a Lehua

DIRECTORS

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Ho'omalu Ka'u

August 29, 2019

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

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,

Ho'omalu Ka'u is a community based 501(c)3 based in Na'alehu, Ka'u, Hawai'i Island. Our mission is to "perpetuate, protect and conserve the land, culture, knowledge and history of Ka'u and its people." We are committed to protecting the archeological, cultural, and historical treasures of the Ka'u District as well as the pristine, undeveloped environmental ecosystems in Ka'u's 922 square miles.

The Ka'u Community Development Plan makes it clear that this community supports the preservation of the 80 undeveloped miles of Ka'u coastline. Ho'omalu Ka'ū strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association's efforts to purchase and protect Kiolaka'a.

Kiolaka'a is a 1,836-acre property south of Waiohinu 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.

The cultural and spiritual connections to places throughout Kiolaka'a are still important to Native Hawaiian and local families. This connection of nature and culture is inseparable, he pilina wehena 'ole, and serves to link us to wahi pana (storied places) and Hawai'i's past.

The Ka'u district retains the natural resources that supported thousands of people

for millennia, and it is still the land and sea bank that can sustain generations to come. Because this area has the seeds for future sustainability (agriculture, food, medicine, tools, building materials and spiritual connection) the preservation of this land and shoreline is vital.

We sometimes forget the value of unspoiled beauty, wildlife, solitude and spiritual renewal. Kiolaka'a offer us all of these things. Its protection in perpetuity, is important for the people and the future of Hawai'i nei.

Mahalo nui,

Wendy Scott-Vance, President, Ho'omalu Ka'ū The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Program 923 Nu'uanu Avenue Honolulu, HI 96817 Tel (808) 537-4508 Fax (808) 545-2019 nature.org/hawaii

August 29, 2019

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

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.

The Nature Conservancy supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association's efforts to purchase and protect Kiolaka'a in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island. Ala Kahakai Trail Association'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.

The property is below the village of Waiʻōhinu, and native seasonal mesic and dryland forest remnants found in the rough lava lands support stands of lama, wiliwili, alaheʻe, hao, ulei, naio, and the listed endangered kauila. Along the shoreline at Kaʻaluʻalu Bay a network of trails lead to Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teeming with two varieties of ʻōpae ʻula, and thickets of naupaka, milo, and ʻauhuhu at the water's edge. The adjacent Kamilo section of the Kaʻū Forest Reserve in Waiʻōhinu contains the most diverse native coastal strand vegetation remaining on Hawai'i Island.

Founded in 1951, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. TNC's Hawai'i Program has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 preserves and work in 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian islands.

TNC's Ka'ū Forest Preserve is part of the largest and most intact expanse of native forest in the state and featuring closed-canopy *koa* and 'ōhi'a sheltering a lush understory of native *uluhe* and *hāpu'u* tree ferns, rare plants and endangered forest birds. Also, our coastal Kamehame Beach Preserve is a critically important nesting site for the endangered hawksbill turtle and a refuge for the threatened green sea turtle whose survival depends upon undisturbed nesting sites and healthy coral reefs primarily on Hawai'i island.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Program August 29, 2019 Page 2

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.

Mahalo, Shalan Crysdale Director, Hawai'i Island Forest Program The Nature Conservancy (808) 443 5413 scrysdale@tnc.org



Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

Post Office Box 70 . Volcano, HJ . 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'ū, 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'ohinu 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

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www.wildhawaii.org	

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

The Mary Kawena Pūku'i Cultural Preservation Society A Unique and Invaluable Educational Resource

March 31, 2021

Aloha kakou,

My name is La'akea Suganuma, president of the Mary Kawena Puku'i Cultural Preservation Society and Mrs. Puku'i's eldest grandson. She was born on April 20, 1895 in Haniumalu, above Na'alehu and raised by her granddmoter, Nali'ipo'aimoku a kahuna la'au lapa'au, a medicinal expert and a kahuna pale keiki, a trained midwife. Kawena was chosen to learn from her grandmother and grew up with no children her own age to play with. She was always with her grandmother, who was born about 1830, so those she was always around, listened to and learned from were elders. After her grandmother passed away, her instruction continued, led by her mother, Pa'ahana and her aunts and uncles.

For those of you who aren't familiar with Kawena Puku'i, she was a true child o Ka'u who was determined to preserve the culture, language, dances, chants, songs, wisdom, history, legends, beliefs and traditions of her people. During her lifetime, she authored or co-auuthored over fifty books and scholarly papers and over a hundred songs and chants beginning with "Hawaiian Stories and Wise Sayings," in 1923 to 'Olelo No'eau in 1983. I shold clarify that it was her last work while she was alive. She passed away in 1986, but other works of hers have been published after that. Among her publications were the Hawaiian Dictionary in 1957, the Polynesian Family System of Ka'u, Native Planters, Songs (meles) of Old Ka'u. In addition, she translated the works of Kamakau, John Papa I'i, Kepelino and Malo. Her songs include "Ka'u Nui" and 'Ke Ala A Ka Jeep" written at Uncle Willie Meinecke's home in Waiohinu after a day of sharing her homeland with Eddie and Myrna Kamae. Songs composed with Maddy Lam, Irmgard Aluli, Kahauanu Lake are considered classics that will be favorites as long as Hawaiian music existsl. With all these accomplishments, my grandmothe was soft-spoken and humble, never pursuing recognition, awards or financial gain. She lived by all the Hawaiian values we admire and talk about today. In fact, I can hear her now, telling me, "Lawa kela! - That's enough about me.".

Her grandmother, Nali'ipo'aimoku was the first of her generation to receive a Christian burial. The many generations of our family before her were deposited in Kilauea, after midnight, their bones wrapped in red and black kapa accompanied by the proper prayers. Many, many generations, back into the dim mists of time, followed this procedure of those who considered Pele, an aumakua, an ancestral guardian, The Fire Clan of Ka'u

Raised by her from infancy, she instilled in me her love for the sands of her birth, that deep aloha that I have passed on to my children and them to theirs. Genealogy has always been very important to Hawaiians. While growing up and introducing

schoolmates to her, she could talk about their family and where they were from. Sometimes I recall her saying, "Oh, your family is from Ka'u and we are related." I was surprised to hear someone at the last BLNR meeting speaking unkindly of genealogy. I'm sure their kupuna were saddened to hear such talk. Speaking of talk, I was taught that in the word is life, in the word is death. One must choose his words carefully, because once said, words take on life. You cannot retrieve them and there may be consquencers for what one says.

One of the things my grandmother told me repeatedly while growing up was, "Of one 'ohana, one family, are the people of Ka'u." She said that to the western man, they go back one or two generations and that's all. To Hawaiians, 'ohana is 'ohana, no matter where they are and extends back to the beginning of time.

There's something different about those whose ancestry traces back to Ka'u, something i'd like to try to explain. It's a strong bond of aloha and respect because of our ancestry. Like Kenneth Makuakane, the pastor at Kawaiaha'o Church. When we see each other, no matter how long it's been, It's always a greeting of, "Aloha cuz" with a hug. The same with Sky Ishibashi, direct descendent of Kalaniopu'u, or Cy Bridges, noted kumu hula and genealogist in Hau'ula whose ancestry includes Kuluwaimaka famous chanter from Ka'u, cousin of Nali'ipo'aimoku, both of whom traveled as part of Queen Emma's court when summoned. We are also related through the chief of Kama'oa, Lilikalani or Haililani and other ways. Always a "Howzit Cuz?" Or an old schoolmate, Ted Mokiao, who I might not see for twenty years or more, but when our paths cross, it's a warm, "Aloha cousin" that's exchanged. Or something I've experienced with a couple of friends I've known for many years. Like Umi Kai who started training in lua back im 1994 with me and who recently told me his grandparents were from Waiohinu or respected Kumu Hula and Hawaiian language teacher, Kimo Keaulana, now at Punahou School who also recently told me of his Ka'u ancestry. They are no longer friends. They are now family. I've met many, many people throughout my life, whose ancestry goes back to Ka'u. There is a different feeling of respect and aloha, unlike any other place in Hawai'i.

Our family lived in every part of Ka'u. I previously submitted the English translation of an old chant to the BLNR, composed in the early 1800's, Ka-lawai'a-hōlona-i-ke-kai-a-Manāka'a. It's about my grandmother's grandfather, Keli'ikanaka'oleoHaililani, his brother Kekipi and cousin Kawelu, three men from Waikapuna fishing at Manaka'a, one of the areas included in this acquisition. Not long after this chant was composed, Kawelu's wife, Huli-o-ka-manomano, gave birth to baby girl. Years later, after she had grown up and married, she gave birth to a stillborn child. Kanaka'ole took the child, placed her in a large calabash and held it up to catch the warmth of the Waikapuna sun and prayed that she would live. The baby stirred and cried, and Kanaka'ole named her Hanau-maka-o-kalani (Kalani who was born from his mother's eye), for an 'aumakua who lived in the sea. This infant who was brought back to life, was the great grand aunt of Keoni Fox of the Alakahakai Trail Association.

In 1960, my grandmother brought me with her on a field trip to Hawai'i Island, while with the Bishop Museum to record elders who spoke about their lives, memories and experiences. In Ka'u, we staved at Uncle Willie Meinecke's house in Wajohinu and visited with 74 year-old Uncle George Kawaha, who lived a few houses away. He told me stories about his father, Luhi, and his maternal grandfather, Kaho'omana who was a lua man. On the 17th and 18th of August we went to Na'alehu school where Ku'umi Kin in and Kalama Kahape'a were recorded. Ku'umi's wife invited us for dinner after the second day and I remember Ku'umi being so happy that electric lights were installed and turned on in his new house just before we arrived. The next day we went to Ka'alu'alu to record a famous fisherman of Ka'u, Kawelauokekapu Kua'ana, the gtanduncle of Kawehi Ryder who I photographed with an old Brownie Hawkeye camera I borrowed from my mother. They are, as far as I know, the only pictures of him in existence. Two days ago, Kawehi was in Honolulu to meet with 91 year-old Riley Fujikawa who, in his youth, stayed with Kapu at Ka'alu'alu. He tells the story of going out in Kapu's canoe to deep water, when Kapu grabbed a big stone in the canoe and his spear. Holding the stone to his chest, he sunk down to the bottom guickly and started poking his spear into a hole. Riley said he came up with a big he'e (octopus) and when Kapu carried it ashore over his shoulder, the head was by his waist and the tentacles dragged on the sand behind him.

There is an old story about a Ka'u chief who got greedy, taking more than his share of fish, leaving the families without fish. One day, the fishermen convinced the chief to go fishing with them because only he could insure a good catch. They paddled far from land, into the deep sea. As they caught fish, they loaded them all in the chief's canoe. His paddlers jumped out so more fish could be thrown in his canoe. As the canoe started to take on water, the chief protested but was told, "Oh no great one, you deserve all we can catch." The fishermen then turned their canoes toward home and paddled full speed. They landed at Ka'alu'alu and never looked back. The greedy chief was seen no more. Ka'alu'alu is part of this Ka'u acquisition.

All these places and people have special meaning to our 'ohana. If the many generations of our family were standing here and were given the choices of development or preservation for the generations to come, I can say to this commission, without hesitation and with the prevailing belief of aloha 'aina, that we fully support the effort of the Alakahakai Trail Association and the Trust for Public Lands to preserve and protect these lands of Kaʻu Nui....Kaʻu kua makaani. Majestic Kaʻu, Kaʻu of the windblown back.

Mahalo for your kind attention and consideration.

William Keoni Fox

From: Makahanaloa Fishing Association <makahanaloafishing@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 12:36 PM

To: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov; reyna.ramolete@tpl.org; fox@alakahakaitrail.org **Subject:** Testimony in Support Conservation of Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a FishingVillage

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Completed

February, 4th, 2021

State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources

The Trust for Public Land

Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

The Makahanaloa Fishing Association strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land's efforts to help the Ka'ū community purchase and protect, in perpetuity, Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala).

Makahanaloa Fishing Association represents over one hundred and twenty 'ohana from Pepe'ekeo, Papa'ikou, and Honomu. Our access to traditional fishing areas has been threatened since the sugar plantations slow demise, ending in the 1990s. The Association is by every means seeking to grow and to protect our fishing community's rights to provide food for their families and maintain the generational bond with our treasured shoreline areas. Many of our Association members travel to Ka'u to fish and gather and are grateful to the community of Ka'ū for working to maintain and preserve these important shoreline sites.

Kiolaka'a is makai of Waiohinu Town and includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka'alu'alu Bay, portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system, 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 'ōpae 'ula.

Manāka'a Fishing Village stands on the sea cliffs overlooking Waikapuna Bay, along with 22 precious cultural sites including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes. Over one mile of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the property and two ancient mauka-makai trails connect Na'ālehu with the coastline.

Personally, I have been fortunate to visit most of these precious and storied places with my 'ohana. I spent time restoring Kapenako, camping at Ka'alu'alu, throwing net at Waikapuna, and standing in awe at the caves, lava tubes, and heiau that form the piko of this 'āina. My heart breaks when I think of this area developed for people who would likely not have the appropriate respect for the history and abundance of this area.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Ka'ū community's long standing goal of protecting an irreplacable and unique 80 mile coastline. Access to this coastline is important for our whole island community which still relies on subsistence fishing and gathering. Remember *he i'a kokekoke ka ka lawai'a*, a fisherman always finds fish nearby, but we must ensure that our fundamental rights to gather from and mālama these special places is preserved for all time.

Mahalo me ka ha'a,

Blake McNaughton

Vice President
Makahanaloa Fishing Association
Makahanaloafishing@gmail.com
808-756-1054

--

Makahanaloa Fishing Association
27-1049 Old Mamalahoa Hwy Pepe 'ekeo 96783
Ua ola no o kai i kai - Fishers live by their own efforts
'Ōlelo No'eau (2838)



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'ū. 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'ū 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'ū 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'ū 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 Ramolete 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 Mokuhali'i, Rae, Donna Ambrose, Monte McComber, Katie Graham.

The outcome of the meeting was a consensus that the <u>purchase of the land is of the highest importance</u>, 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

February 9th, 2021

State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

Aloha mai kākou,

Hui Aloha Kīholo strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and The Trust for Public Land's efforts to help the Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala).

Hui Aloha Kīholo is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose missions is to preserve, protect, and enhance the cultural and natural landscape of the Kīholo bay area through collaborative management and active community stewardship. Our stewardship of Kīholo bay, North Kona, Hawaii Island, through a Curatorship agreement with Hawaii Division of State Parks has resulted in over a decade of care of over 2,000 acres of coastline at a level far beyond what the State could have done on its own. The benefits to Kīholo's cultural and natural resources, lineal descendants, families, community, visitors, and partners have been immense, and we gladly anticipate similar fruits of this upcoming ATA - TPL collaboration.

The following highlights the main reasons Hui Aloha Kīholo supports a conservation purchase and permanent protection of the makai lands of Kāwala:

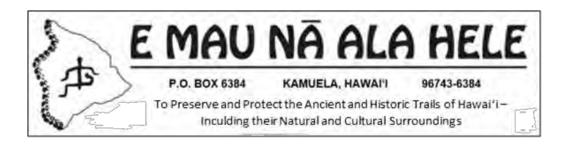
- Enables the active stewardship of ancestral homelands by people of place and the continuation of a rich living Hawaiian culture. ATA's Ka'ū Stewardship Committee is comprised entirely of Ka'ū residents to guide the stewardship Ka'ū lands through the development of a Community Management Plan in partnership with broader stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership.
- Connects public lands to its north and south, protecting important natural landscapes and oceanscapes which will only become more valuable and vulnerable into the future.
- Protects native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka'alu'alu Bay, portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail.
- Protects a rich cultural complex, including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes.
- Maintains access to the coastline, which is important for the Kaʻū community, which still relies heavily on subsistence fishing and gathering, as well as for the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Kaʻū's ancestors.

It is fortunate, indeed, for our Hawai'i nei to see the intersection of dedicated community and stewardship organizations, committed to pairing their strengths and carrying the kuleana (responsibility) of stewarding the lands and people of Kāwala makai. Hui Aloha Kīholo urges you to support the successful completion of this land acquisition and protection.

Mahalo nui loa,

Males

Nahaku Kalei Executive Director, Hui Aloha Kīholo



February 21, 2021

State of Hawaiʻi Board of Land and Natural Resources blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association fox@alakahakaitrail.org

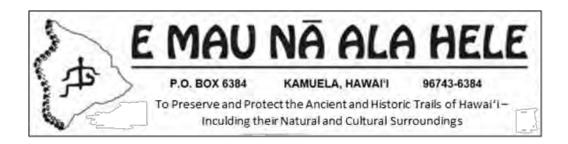
Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

E Mau Nā Ala Hele, a non-profit organization established in 1979 and dedicated to preserving the ancient and historic trails of Hawai'i strongly supports the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) and The Trust for Public Land's (TPL) efforts to help with the acquisition of a 1,841.3-acre parcel in Kiolaka'a Ahupua'a and a 348-acre parcel in Kāwala Ahupua'a (also known as the Manāka'a Fishing Village). Both areas are known for their rich cultural and natural resources that need long-term stewardship and protection.

Kiolaka'a is *makai* of Waiohinu Town and includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka'alu'alu Bay, portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement, the Lua Nunu cave system, 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 'ōpae 'ula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, which perpetuates Ka'ū's long-standing paniolo traditions.

Manāka'a Fishing Village is on the sea cliffs overlooking Waikapuna Bay, and includes twenty-two known cultural sites including *heiau*, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes. Over one mile of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the property and two ancient *mauka-makai* trails connect Na'ālehu with the coastline.

ATA'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. ATA has a Kaʻū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Kaʻū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Kaʻū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Kaʻū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

As a Hawai'i Island-based trails advocacy group, E Mau Nā Ala Hele is certain that ATA with the support of TPL and the Ka'ū Stewardship Committee are well equipped and committed to the long-term protection and stewardship of these lands. Supporting the efforts of these groups will help ensure that these places, which are steeped in history and valued natural and cultural resources are properly cared for and protected.

Protection of these treasured places will help ensure the residents of Kaʻū and the people of Hawaiʻi can continue to interact with these places in a more sustainable manner. Sustainable stewardship is vital to maintain the natural beauty of Kaʻū so that this place may be enjoyed by current and more importantly future generations.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Kaʻū community's long standing goal of protecting their beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate their rural lifestyle and cultural traditions and practices. Access to the coastline is important for their community which still relies on subsistence fishing and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Kaʻū's lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Kaʻū's ancestors.

Mahalo,

Kamuela Plunkett

President

On behalf of the Board of E Mau Nā Ala Hale:

Send Phaty

Lokelani Brandt Adele Salzman
Karen Clarkson Barbara Schaeffer
Marcie Davis Suze Shannon
Linda Gallano Johnathan Tadross



August 29, 2019

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

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) 9-4-001:017.

Huliauapa'a strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land's efforts to help the Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka'a. Ala Kahakai Trail Association'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.

Protection of the Kaʻū coastline has been a long standing goal of the community. Kiolakaʻa is a 1,836-acre property south of Waiohinu Town that includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Kaʻaluʻalu 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 ʻōpae ʻula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Kaʻū's paniolo traditions.

Protecting Kiolaka'a from development would ensure continued access to this coastline for subsistence fishing and cattle ranching, cultural access for descendants, and recreational access for travelers along the ancient ala loa (Ala Kahakai Trail) so future generations can walk in the footsteps of their ancestors.

Huliauapa'a's vision is wahi kupuna thriving through Hawaiian self-determination. Our mission is to grow Hawai'i's communities through culturally based dimensions of innovative learning, leadership development and collaborative networking in wahi kūpuna stewardship. We are a Native Hawaiian non-profit organization which seeks to educate haumāna and communities on the appropriate stewardship of wahi kūpuna. Huliauapa'a members, including resource managers, researchers, educators, cultural practitioners, and students, share a unifying commitment and belief: to protect, preserve, and perpetuate Hawai'i's cultural and natural resources through educational opportunities, community outreach, and advocacy. Our organization is intent on transforming Cultural Resource Management (CRM) in Hawai'i, by integrating 'Ōiwi perspectives into our every-day operations and activities and striving to give Hawaiians and kama'āina a voice and a meaningful role in managing our own resources.



Huliauapa'a provides educational programs, such as the Wahi Kūpuna Internship Program (WKIP), which is a summer internship for undergraduate students in the fields of Anthropology, Archaeology, Hawaiian Studies, and related fields. The program targets Native Hawaiian and kama'āina students to increase their representation in Hawai'i's Cultural Resource Management (CRM) field by providing them cultural and scientific mentoring, professional development, education, and applied field experiences. The program aims to develop and support the next generation of cultural resource managers in Hawai'i by offering a learning environment that bridges the worldviews of culture and science and by encouraging the interns to respect, appreciate, and utilize their cultural values, beliefs, and practices while conducting archaeological research. Kiolaka'a, Ka'ū would serve to be an ideal learning environment and the perfect educational grounds for training our youth and communities in the tools of cultural resource management and provide a perfect setting to further connect our people to our 'āina and wahi pana.

Huliauapa'a ran our annual Wahi Kupuna Internship Program in Ka'ū in 2014 and we were able to visit the Ka'ū coast with Keoni Fox and his 'ohana, and it was an inspirational experience for our students and staff. To see first hand that there are still intact cultural landscapes in our islands that provide a direct connection to our kūpuna was something that many of us have not experienced before. These types of settings are extremely important to preserve to teach our keiki and lāhui how our kūpuna were able to utilize the natural, cultural, and marine resources to live sustainably in these islands. There are many lessons that we can learn today from how our ancestors understood and utilized our unique environments, and Kiolaka'a is one of those cultural landscapes that should be preserved and protected for these special opportunities in the future.

Mahalo for your support,

Kelley L. Uyeoka Executive Director

Kelley . lyeoka

Huliauapa'a

kelley@huliauapaa.org

www.huliauapaa.org

Board of Land and Natural Resources Hawai'i State Government

Re: Testimony in support of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) & Trust for Public Lands (TPL) efforts to protect and acquire Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

Aloha mai kākou:

Our organization, 'Ohana Keohokālole, is in full support of the efforts of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) and the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) to help the Ka'ū community acquire, manage and steward the lands named above as well as all other unprotected Ka'ū lands into perpetuity. The missions of the aforementioned organizations have been well documented in the Board's own records, and our 'Ohana, without reservation, applauds and respects their continuing work to protect these precious lands of Ka'ū for present and future generations.

'Ohana Keohokālole is a federally-recognized Native Hawaiian Organization (NHO), and, as one of its main missions, was established in 1999 in response to ongoing issues of disturbance of *iwi kūpuna* (Native Hawaiian ancestral remains) to make room for housing developments, building of new and refurbishing of outdated hotels in Waikīkī and updating aging infrastructure in Honolulu proper. We have been recognized as both cultural and lineal claimants by the burial councils on Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi Island, and Maui. As a testament to the commitment of our organization together with several of our claimant families of Waikīkī, we designed and built a burial repository that sits on the corner of Kapahulu and Kalākaua Avenues in Waikīkī. This repository now houses the remains of kūpuna that have been unearthed in Waikīkī and other places around the moku, and still has space for future disturbances.

A second mission of our organization, is that of Hawaiian education by providing opportunities for our lāhui to study and learn the Hawaiian language, research and explore family connections by tracing one's roots, leading field excursions to cultural sites, participating in and offering

training to kūpuna and students to further their knowledge of the Hawaiian heritage. We have provided seed money for development of curriculum development, scholarships for student and kūpuna travel for cultural exchange in Hawai'i, the mainland, and overseas.

Given these introductions about us, *moʻokūʻauhau* is very important when our family speaks of Kaʻū. Our Kaʻū connections go back to High Chief Keawe-a-Heulu, ruler of Kaʻū after 1791, born at Paiahaʻa Bay. His heiau, Pāneʻe, which he built is located in Waiʻōhinu. Our familial ties to High Chiefess Ane Keohokālole, granddaughter of High Chief Keawe-a-Heulu and mother of our last King and Queen, underscores our ties to Kaʻū as she was owner of many parcels of land which eventually became the sugar plantations. Also, our kūpuna kāne, Keohokālole and his brother Manunu, owned 106 acres of land at Kiolakaʻa where they lived before the catastrophic earthquake of 1868. Many Hawaiians perished and were displaced from their lands because of this disaster.

The benefits of preservation of the Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a lands are many. Our organization believes the greatest benefits that can be derived from a unified, concerted community effort such as this one is 1) the assurance of access to the fishing areas as well as gathering rights along the coast; 2) the planting of food crops in the uplands to provide food security; and, 3) the educational opportunities for our lāhui and descendants to help manage, protect, and learn about the stewardship of all the cultural resources that are inherent in the landscape left by our kūpuna. We want our descendants to appreciate their inheritance.

A final comment. For us, the basic mark of our identity and connection to Ka'ū is the 'āina. We are tied to Ka'ū through our kūpuna's existence on their 'āina when they occupied their lands. The metaphor of the mo 'o in the word mo ' $ok\bar{u}$ 'auhau as defined by the kūpuna is that of a continuing succession of family – pedigree. No pronouncement of "outsidership" in any way removes our claims to Ka'ū which we, 'Ohana Keohokālole, make on the basis of our kūpuna who lived in Ka'ū.

All of you who are privileged to live in Ka'ū at this time cannot nor should you ignore the claims and comments of the descendants of those who occupied these lands before your arrival. No single organization "owns" Ka'ū. All of us are members of the Ka'ū family and community, regardless of where our families now reside. We are all obligated to and have the

urgent responsibility of protecting this 'āina. Remember that our kūpuna are watching and listening and they expect us to *hana like* (work together). We must do it with Aloha and respect each other in this entire endeavor.

May Ke Akua give us wisdom to move forward me ke ku 'ikahi (with unity).

Mary Kawena Puku'i in 'Ōlelo No'eau 1620, "Ka'ū lepo 'ula'ula" "Ka'ū of the red earth" said of the natives of old Ka'ū, who were one vast family..." We are one vast family!

If you have questions or require clarification on any of the above, feel free to contact us at eek4@hawaii.edu.

'Ohana Keohokālole, NHO

Gluus Guslin Keoholeslel Emma Emalia Keohokālole

Family Representative

P O Box 565

Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744

(808) 371-3398

e-m: <u>eek4@hawaii.edu</u>



CAVE CONSERVANCY OF HAWAII P.O. BOX 7083 OCEAN VIEW, HI 96737 10 MARCH, 2021

State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's Grant
Application to Acquire and Protect Kiolaka'a (Item C1B) and
Manāka'a Fishing Village (Item C1C) in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

Aloha Madam Chair Suzanne Case and Board Members

My name is Tomislav Gracanin. As President of the Cave Conservancy of Hawaii (CCH), I represent a Ka'u based conservation organization whose members respect and cherish the lava tube caves of Hawaii. We recognize that caves and all associated above ground properties should be protected and conserved for their geological, biological, archaeological, and cultural significance. Our members are cavers, hikers, scientists, and conservation activists.

BLNR is considering a recommendation by the State Legacy Land Conservation Commission to award a grant to the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) for the preservation of Kiolaka'a at Ka'alu'alu Bay and Manāka'a Fishing Village. An application was submitted to the State Legacy Land Commission in 2019 and out of twelve applications across the State, these two Ka'u properties ranked in the top three.

I sent a letter of support to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission for consideration at its meeting of September 4 - 6, 2019, in which the CCH advocated for the preservation of the immensely important and significant archeological cave known as Lua Nun O Kamakalepo. At that time, we attached a detailed archeological report by the eminent archeologist, Prof. William J. Bonk. written in 1953. He stated the Lua Nunu o Kamakalepo is unique in many ways among caves of refuge, having two walls, one in each segment of the tube. He found that the cave dated from 1500 to 1800 AD, based on the fishhooks found. He explains that this period is correlated with "a cultural period that includes an increased population, the development of a more elaborate or complex political organization, a formalized pattern of warfare, and in general, a higher level of sociocultural integration."

In addition to protecting this most important lava tube and refuge cave, we support ATA's vision of protecting the entire Ka'ū coastline. The ATA is a non-profit land conservation organization and as such meets the LLCP's requirements for being awarded conservation grants. In addition, the Association has a track record of acquiring and conserving properties of note. The ATA has received three grant awards from the LLCP's fund, namely:

34.6 acres in N. Kohala in 2012

2,317 acres at Waikapuna in 2017

1,363 acres Kaunamano in 2020.

In all cases the conservation easement is (or will be) held by other organizations. We have every confidence in the ability of the ATA to execute all the required steps and follow through with the acquisition of Kiolaka'a and to secure matching funding from PONC. The properties are currently privately owned and are slated for subdivision and sale by the current owners. This is of great concern to us as the only protection for the Lua Nunu o Kamakalepo cave is that fact that its location is not generally known, and also that there are no good roads to it. We understand that the plans of the the owner, Mr. Ernest Moody, to subdivide Kiolaka'a are well advanced. He has already acquired a road variance and a water variance and an exemption from a historical survey from the State Historical Preservation Dept. It seems obvious to us that if the ATA is not able to acquire this land, it will be subdivided into 20 lots, each one about 80 acres in extent. Those lots will be zoned 20A so each one can be further subdivided into 20-acre lots. Once roads have been built and fences installed, the Lua Nunu o Kamakalepo will be easily accessible and will, in all likelihood, be looted, vandalized and essentially destroyed. The loss of this refuge cave will be incalculable.

We have read and heard some of the testimony of local Ka'u residents and are moved by their concerns. We understand that deeply rooted generational families have strong ties to the Aina; however, that alone will be insufficient to protect these parcels from being subdivided and sold by the current owners. We understand that ATA intends to collaborate with Ka'u families in the interests of long term stewardship of lands purchased.

As we see it, the best way to protect both the community's interests and the future of the land would be to award a grant to the ATA so that it can, with a grant from PONC, purchase the parcels and give the County a conservation easement. The County of Hawai'i has agreed to pay for a management plan to be drawn up by a Townscape. If that plan is based on input from members of the public, including generational families, then, we feel, the needs of the community and the public will be equitably balanced.

A preservation purchase would protect these spectacular lands, some of the most remote in Hawaii. The alternative - subdivision development – would assure this land will never again be enjoyed by present or future generations but would instead by crisscrossed with roads and fences and inhabited by hundreds without any connection to the Aina.

In short, as a Ka'u based conservation organization, CCH supports ATA's efforts and we believe that with a grant from the LLCP, the land will be conserved for posterity and the community's voices will be heard. It will be a win-win.

Our considered conclusion is that both Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a Fishing Village are too rich in Hawaiian heritage to remain in private ownership.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify on behalf of the CCH,

TOMISLAV GRACANIN

Jours Open

PRESIDENT OF THE CAVE CONSERVANCY OF HAWAI'I

April 01, 2020

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

Re:

Conservation Purchase of Kiolaka'a, Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island

TMKs: (3) 9-4-001:008; (3) 9-4-001:009; (3) 9-4-001:017

Aloha Reyna,

I, Walter Andrade, and MJ Ranch support Ala Kahakai Trail Association and the Trust for Public Land's efforts to help our community purchase, protect, and steward the lands of Kiolaka'a

Our family ranch has sub-licensed a mauka portion of this property, 316 acres, where we graze about 75 head of cattle, and we have also camped at Kaʻaluʻalu Bay over the years. Kaʻū's agricultural lands should be protected to support our local agricultural economy and self sufficiency.

We look forward to working in partnership with Ala Kahakai Trail Association to ensure that our cattle ranching license continues and is complimentary to the goal of preserving the cultural and natural resources on the property. Protecting these lands would ensure that Kaʻū's rural character and paniolo traditions are preserved for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to preserve Kiolaka'a.

Indrade

Mahalo.

Walter D. Andrade

MJ Ranch

PO Box 74

Na'alehu, Hawai'i 96722

Roy A Loando

Triple LLL Ranch

P.O. Box 6746

Kamuela Hawaii 96743

To whom it may concern,

I, Roy A Loando, support Ala Kahakai Trail Association's purchase of the Kiolakaa parcel. I am a rancher in Kau and presently lease a parcel in Kau for that purpose. I would like to see as much of the large land parcels in Kau preserved and protected and not be developed. If the Association is successful in receiving the funds to purchase the parcel, it will be the last piece to connect Ka Lae to Honoapu for the benefit of the people of Kau. I ask the Land Board to please vote in favor of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association's funding request.

Sincerely,

Roy A Loando

Pay a Janlo

January 21, 2021

State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Re: Testimony in Support of BLNR Agenda Item C(1)(B) & C(1)(C): Legacy Land Grant Award to Ala Kahakai Trail Association: \$1,475,000, for the acquisition of approximately 1,841.3 acres at Ka'ū, Hawai'i (Kiolaka'a) & \$875,000, for the acquisition of approximately 348 acres at Ka'ū, Hawai'i (Manāka'a Fishing Village)

Aloha Chair Case and BLNR Members,

I would like to express my enthusiastic support for the Legacy Land Grant Award to Ala Kahakai Trail Association to purchase and protect Kiolaka'a & Manāka'a Fishing Village.

The protection of these lands is in our community's interest because it is one of the last remaining pieces in securing the undeveloped coastline that is so highly valued by our community, as expressed in the Ka'ū Community Development Plan (CPD). I was a member of the Ka'ū CPD Steering Committee and protecting Kiolaka'a & Manāka'a advances the vision and goals our community articulated:

"The Ka'ū CDP should honor Ka'ū's unique rural lifestyle, its connection between people and place, and its distinctive Hawaiian cultural heritage. It must plan for the future in ways that: increase economic opportunities through a diverse, resilient, and sustainable economy; and protect and provide reasonable access to natural and recreational resources including the mauka forests, the coastline, open spaces, and park facilities and programs."

"Objective 2: Preserve prime and other viable agricultural lands and preserve and enhance viewscapes that exemplify Kaʻū's rural character."

"Objective 10: Encourage and enhance agriculture, ranching, and related economic infrastructure."

Keeping these lands in agriculture will support the rural economy in Kaʻū and provide the land base for agricultural production that supports the County and State of Hawaiʻi. My family owns and operates Kuahiwi Ranch and we currently graze approximately 200 head of beef cattle on the Manāka'a parcel. We have been ranching on this parcel for the last five years and its protection would allow our lease to continue.

Kuahiwi Ranch specializes in local, free-range, grass-fed beef which contributes to our local food security and self-sufficiency, which have become so critically important during this health crisis. We market about 450,000 lbs of meat annually to grocery stores and restaurants throughout Hawaii including: Whole Foods, Foodland, and Foodland Farms, Alan Wong's, Town, and Honolulu Burger Co. We also provide secure jobs to eleven employees and our work also supports other food system jobs that enables our beef to get from ranch to table.

We strongly believe in the agricultural, open space, and cultural value of these lands. We are committed to working together as close partners with the Ala Kahakai Trail Association and the broader community so that our ranching operations can co-exist and compliment the preservation of both the cultural and natural resources on the property. Kiolaka'a & Manāka'a, as part of the Ka'ū coastline, should be preserved for the people of the State and County of Hawai'i. The pristine Ka'ū coastline is a treasure that we can steward and a gift that we can pass on to future generations.

Mahalo,

Michelle Galimba

Michelle Galimba, VP Kuahiwi Ranch PO Box 24 Nāʻālehu HI 96772 (808)430-4927



STATE OF HAWAI'I OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

560 N. NIMITZ HWY., SUITE 200 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96817

HRD19-8931

June 17, 2019

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi Aloha 'Āina Project Manager The Trust for Public Land 1003 Bishop Street Pauahi Tower, Suite 740 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Letter of Support for the Acquisition and Protection of Kaunāmano and Manāka'a Fishing

Village of the Ka'ū Coast

Kaunāmano Ahupua'a, Ka'ū Moku, Hawai'i Mokupuni

Tax Map Keys: (3) 9-5-012:001; and, 9-5-011:001, 004, 005, 006

Aloha e Ms. Hayashi:

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is writing in support of the Trust for Public Land's (TPL) efforts to acquire agricultural and conservation lands along the Ka'ū coast for the purposes of preservation and restoration. OHA understands that TPL is currently seeking funding for these acquisitions from the County of Hawai'i Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources (PONC) Fund, the State of Hawai'i Legacy Land Conservation Fund, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Thus, TPL will meet with the PONC Commission on July 8, as well as submit an application to the Legacy Land Conservation fund in July. OHA further understands that TPL is closely partnered with the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA), who will primarily implement long-term stewardship of the area if acquisition is successful. OHA has previously provided support for similar TPL acquisitions in other areas along the Ka'ū coast. The current proposed acquisitions are aligned with a greater Ka'ū community effort to protect the entire 80 mile Ka'ū coast.

OHA is the constitutionally recognized body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians. As such, OHA's mission is to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians by focusing our efforts on six strategic priorities: 'āina (land and water), mo'omeheu (culture), ho'okahuawaiwai (economic self-sufficiency), ho'ona'auao (education), ea (governance), and mauli ola (health). By maintaining a connection to the past through the preservation of 'āina, it is OHA's hope that Native Hawaiians will participate in and benefit from responsible 'āina

¹ Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) is a descendant led non-profit organization that provides community assistance for trail management and planning. The ATA helps ensure that the Ala Kahakai Trail is well-connected to the community and that Hawaiian values and principles are in place and practiced.

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi June 17, 2019 Page 2

stewardship. Previously, OHA has supported many efforts throughout the state that promote the preservation of agricultural and conservation lands threatened by rezoning and unnecessary development. OHA values the protection of such prime lands as a potential vehicle for food self-sufficiency and a means for reconnecting people with the 'āina through responsible stewardship.

The lands of Kaunāmano and Manāka'a contain innumerable cultural resources important to the preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian culture. This area of the Ka'ū coast contains many still-intact fishing villages, historic trails, pristine cultural sites, natural springs, burial sites, petroglyphs, lava tubes, and caves that together maintain a strong cultural landscape. Native Hawaiians today continue to use this area for traditional cultural practices and educational purposes. Mo'olelo of this area describe thriving fishing villages and the practice of lua (traditional Hawaiian martial art). Additionally, it is believed that the caves and underground lava tubes served as strategic spots to defend the area and conceal armies in times of war.

The Ka'ū coast is also home to a variety of endangered Hawaiian flora and fauna. 80% to 90% of the honu'ea (hawksbill sea turtle) nest along the Ka'ū coast. The honu (green sea turtles), 'īlioholoikauaua (Hawaiian monk seals), and koholā (humpback whales) depend on the clean waters off Kaunāmano. Native coastal plants blanket the shoreline, while pueo (Hawaiian short-eared owl), migratory birds, and native sea and shorebirds live along Kaunāmano's rocky shorelines.

OHA understands and supports TPL's and ATA's efforts to protect the natural and cultural resources of Ka'ū for present and future generations. As both TPL and ATA aim to protect existing cultural resources and seek to reconnect people to the 'āina through responsible stewardship, OHA views their overall efforts as being in concert with our own mission and strategic plan. OHA notes that the preservation of the parcels in question are further aligned with the October 2017 Ka'ū Community Development Plan which seeks to protect and enhance natural resources. TPL's and ATA's efforts to acquire these lands would effectively eliminate potential undesired development of the Ka'ū coast and help the Ka'ū community achieve their dream of one day protecting all of the Ka'ū coast.

Accordingly, OHA supports TPL's and ATA's efforts to acquire these lands and thereby enable our beneficiaries and the Ka'ū community to preserve, practice, and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture; mālama Ka'ū's resources and sites; and, contribute to the future security and self-sufficiency of our islands. Should you have any questions, please contact OHA's Lead Compliance Specialist, Kamakana C. Ferreira, at (808) 594-0227, or by email at kamakanaf@oha.org.

'O wau iho no me ka 'oia 'i'o,

Kamana opono M. Crabbe, Ph.D.

Ka Pouhana, Chief Executive Officer

areague Calle

KC:kf



STATE OF HAWAI'I OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

560 N. NIMITZ HWY., SUITE 200 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96817

HRD19-8931B

June 27, 2019

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi Aloha 'Āina Project Manager The Trust for Public Land 1003 Bishop Street Pauahi Tower, Suite 740 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Addendum to Letter of Support for the Acquisition and Protection of Kaunāmano and

Manāka'a Fishing Village of the Ka'ū Coast

Kaunāmano Ahupua'a, Ka'ū Moku, Hawai'i Mokupuni

Tax Map Keys: (3) 9-5-012:001; 9-5-011:001, 004, 005, 006; and, 9-4-001: 008, 009, 017

Aloha e Ms. Hayashi:

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers this addendum to its letter of June 17, 2019 in **support** of the Trust for Public Land's (TPL) efforts to acquire agricultural and conservation lands along the Ka'ū coast for the purposes of preservation and restoration. This addendum is to clarify the applicability of the June 17 letter of support to include the contemplated acquisition of lands in Kiolaka'a, as part of the storied cultural landscape of Ka'ū described in the previous letter, and whose protection from development and undesirable land uses would enable present and future generations of our beneficiaries to preserve, practice, and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture; mālama Ka'ū's resources and sites; and, contribute to the future security and self-sufficiency of our islands.

Should you have any questions, please contact our Lead Compliance Specialist, Kamakana C. Ferreira, at (808) 594-0227, or by email at kamakanaf@oha.org.

'O wau iho no me ka 'oia 'i'o,

Kamana opono M. Crabbe, Ph.D.

Ka Pouhana, Chief Executive Officer

KC:kf



STATE OF HAWAII STATE CAPITOL HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

October 14, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Speaker of the House Scott K. Saiki

From: Representative Richard P. Creagan

Chair, House Committee on Agriculture

RE: Letter in Support of Legacy Land Conservation Funding to Protect and Acquire

Kaunāmano, Kiolaka'a, and Manāka'a in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

I am writing to express my strong support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's efforts to purchase and protect Kaunāmano, Kiolaka'a, and Manāka'a in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island. Ala Kahakai Trail Association'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.

Kaunāmano's ancient fishing village of Pā'ula includes the famous rock paved anchialine pool of Puhi'ula cave. The property includes over four miles of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail and 444 archaeological sites including heiau, refuge caves and lava tubes with petroglyphs and pictographs, a lua training area, house sites, and burials. Kaunāmano provides extensive coastal habitat for native plants, seabirds and marine life including humpback whales and hawksbill and green sea turtles. The lush mauka pasture lands are leased by Kuahiwi Ranch for raising local, grass fed beef, supporting the local, agricultural economy.

Kiolaka'a is a 1,836-acre property south of Waiohinu 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, built during the wars with Kamehameha. Other cultural sites include heiau, habitation sites, petroglyphs, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teems with 'ōpae 'ula. The mauka lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka'ū's paniolo traditions.

Manāka'a's breathtaking Maniania Pali rises over 200 feet providing protection for nesting sea birds and native coastal plants. Cultural resources include 22 documented sites such as heiau, burials, lava tube habitation sites, underground springs, over one mile of the Ala Kahakai

National Historic Trail, two mauka-makai trails, and the remains of Manāka'a Fishing Village. These lands provide some of the best cattle grazing lands in Ka'ū, leased by Kuahiwi Ranch.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Ka'ū community's long standing goal of protecting their beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate their rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for their 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.

I wholeheartedly support the Legacy Land Conservation Commission's recommendations to provide land acquisition funding for the conservation of Kaunāmano, Kiolaka'a, and Manāka'a.

W/AHAW)
Rechord

William Keoni Fox

From: Fred Meinecke <fmeineck@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 1:05 AM

To: fox@alakahakaitrail.org; reyna.ramolete@tpl.org; laakea1@hawaiiantel.net; Emma

Keohokalole; Samuel Plunkett Jr; Lani Lapilio; Fred Meinecke; Brian Richardson

Subject: MĀLAMA Kiolaka'a me Waikapuna a me ke Ala Kahakai ma Ka'ū

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

Ae, ho'i! Aloha mai kākou pākahi ā pau!

Eia nēia, 'o wau 'o Fred Kalani Meinecke a no Wai'ōhinu mai mākou. A no ka pono o kēnei papahana, e kākau aku ana au i nā 'ōlelo 'elua, 'o ka mua no ka pono o nā kūpuna o kākou, a no ka lua no ka maopopo iā lākou o ka 'ōlelo ho'okahi wale!

This rendering is from Fred Kalani Meinecke and we are from Wai'ōhinu. And for the propriety of this testimony, I will convey bilingually; first for our kūpuna who cannot be here, and secondly for those confined to a single language!

'O ko'u 'i'ini nō e kākau iho nei 'o ia nō e kāko'o i kā 'oukou hana nui, lōkihi a pa'upa'u i mea e mālama i ka 'āina o nā kūpuna o kākou. He mahalo nui iā 'oukou no kā 'oukou ho'omanawanui i kēia hana ko'iko'i! Maopopo loa nō ho'i ia'u! No ka mea aia wau ma Kona me Herb Kawainui Kāne mā i nā makahiki 1975-79 e ho'ā'o nui e ho'opakele iā "Ka Lae o ka Moa" ma Hōlualoa Kai mai ke kūkulu hōkele hou me hale hou! A i ka hopena, ua pōmaika'i i kā ke Kia'āina Ariyoshi i kū'ai mai i kēlā 'āpana no ka Moku'āina 'o Hawai'i e mālama ai! No laila, hiki wale nō ka hopena lanakila i ka hākākā e mālama 'āina!

My intent in writing this is to convey support of your long, difficult and exhausting task of protecting our ancestral lands! I very much know what it's like and what it takes! For I was there in Kona with good friend Herb Kawainui Kāne and others in the mid-70's to struggle to save the sacred religious complex, "Ka Lae o ka Moa," The Headland of the Warriors," from replacement by a Holiday Inn and housing development! And in the end, it was fortunate that then Governor Ariyoshi agreed to purchase the 15-acre site for the State to protect! So victorious outcomes <u>can happen</u> in land contention!

A ua poina wale ia'u e ha'i mai i ke 'ano kūkaulani o Ka Lae o ka Moa no ka mea ua hō'ike 'ia mai 'o <u>Keolonāhihi</u>, ke kaikamahine a ke Kahuna Nui <u>Pāoa</u> (= <u>Pā'ao</u>),

me kāna kāne nā mea kuhikuhi i kēlā kahua heiau i ke kenekulia 'umikūmāhā!

And I've overlooked mentioning that the very sacredness of the religious site complex (five heiau, court of law, virgin ali'i women's sanctity, warriors' training ground, sacred cadaver preparation site (incl. the imu for Kamehameha's body to be defleshed) dates back to the founding in the 14th century by one Keolonāhihi, daughter of the High Priest, Pāoa (a.k.a. Pā'oa) and her husband.

No Ka'ū, he po'okela kona 'ano kahiko loa a kapu loa no nā hānauna ali'i me nā hānauna kāhuna. A he nui loa nō nā mea kūhohonu, malū, palapala 'ole, a 'ike 'ole ānō! 'O ia kahi kumu he pa'akikī kē hō'ike laulā ānō kē lilo loa nā kūpuna! He aha e hana aku ai?

In regard to Ka'ū, its antiquity and sanctity is foremost because of generations of paramount rulers and high priests. And yet much is deeply hidden, secretive, undocumented and not known today. It's one of the reasons it's difficult to widely inform today when so many (all?) of the kūpuna are gone forever! What are we to do?

--- Fred Kalani Meinecke fmeineck@hawaii.edu (808) 371-4233

February 28, 2021

Kalāhoʻohie Mossman P.O. Box 43 Naʻalehu, Hi 96772

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi The Trust for Public Land 1003 Bishop Street, Suite 740 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re:

Support for Ala Kahakai Trail Association and the Trust for Public Land's efforts to Purchase and Protect Manaka'a in Kāwala Ka'ū and lands in Kiolaka'a, Ka'ū.

Aloha,

Aloha, my name is Kalāhoʻohie Mosman and I am a resident of Waiʻōhinu, Kaʻū. I support The Trust for Public Land and ATAʻs efforts to protect and purchase the Manakaʻa and Kiolaka'a properties in Kaʻū, Hawaiʻi. Protecting these lands would provide impactful community benefits: preserving beloved cultural and historic resources and an outdoor classroom for students to learn about the area and the Hawaiian traditions.

I had expressed concern at the last meeting considering this purchase because I felt there was not sufficient community engagement. Since that time ATA and the Trust for Public Lands have reached out and have held a community zoom meeting as well as spoke to individuals in our community directly. I am satisfied with this effort and feel that the community will be a part of the ongoing management of these lands in the future.

If these properties were to be sold to a private buyer it would mean the loss of significant cultural resources along the coastline. It could also have serious impacts on our coastal and marine resources. A resource that our community depends on to survive.

I invision this area being protected restored, and stewarded by the community for 'āina-based education, Hawaiian cultural practices and creating a space where one can establish a connection to the environment.

Mahalo,

Kalāho'ohie Mossman

Ka'ū Resident

P.O. Box 43

Na'alehu, Hi 96772

September 4, 2019

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

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.

Jodie Rosam and family are in support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's efforts to purchase and protect Kiolaka'a in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island. Ala Kahakai Trail Association'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 Waiohinu 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.

Our family owns nearly 50 acres in Kiolaka'a, just mauka of the property to which this letter is directed. We also own several parcels in the Green Sands subdivision, also in Kiolaka'a. Our family has been here for over 30 years, and we care deeply for these lands. As a restoration ecologist, conservationist, and teacher, I see the uniqueness of this land. Not only does it contain rare plant species, but it contains history. From battleground cave systems to ancient agricultural sites to veins of rare plants, this place is rich with significance.

As a mother of two young children, and an active member in our community and our keiki, I see the potential of this land for our future. Our family has a vision to restore old agricultural systems on our property and bring students from local schools to educate them on ancient agricultural techniques. We also plan to collect seeds from rare species and give seedlings to our community to restore these unique plant species. If this property were to become developed, a major source of dryland forest seeds would be lost. It is without question that ancient agricultural sites, burial sites, and cave systems would be destroyed as well. This land is special. It is sacred. And we fully support protection of Kiolaka'a.

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.

Mahalo,
Jodie Rosam
Rosas, Ambrose, and Rosam Ohana
jodie.rosam@gmail.com
808-987-8681

February 16, 2021

State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

Our family strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land's efforts to help the Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala). Ala Kahakai Trail Association'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. ATA has a Ka'ū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Ka'ū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Ka'ū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Ka'ū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

Kiolaka'a is makai of Waiohinu Town and includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka'alu'alu Bay, portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system, 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 'ōpae 'ula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka'ū's paniolo traditions.

Manāka'a Fishing Village stands on the sea cliffs overlooking Waikapuna Bay, along with 22 precious cultural sites including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes. Over one mile of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the property and two ancient mauka-makai trails connect Na'ālehu with the coastline.

Our family has lived near the boundary of Ka'ū and Puna for almost 20 years and we have committed our lives to protecting and restoring natural resources particularly in Ka'ū, mainly as employees working directly for the National Park Service or otherwise within Hawai'i

Volcanoes National Park. Through our work, we have assisted The Nature Conservancy and various local groups in the district as well. Outside of work, we have surfed, played, fished, and contributed to mālama 'āina efforts in the area for nearly two decades. We have been fortunate to have camped along the coast, learned about cultural features at the nearby site Puhi'ula and celebrated weddings of friends and family at Kiolaka'a and Honu'apo. Many of our 'ohana have important ties to these ahupua'a whether through ancestral lineage or current land ownership.

We have seen how development can change the shape of the land and the connection to place. Protecting the Kaʻū coastline is important to us, to our family and friends who call it home, and to our children's future. For the past few years, we have participated in a stewardship training called Hālau 'Ōhi'a, and we have learned from training and from huaka'i about just a few of the numerous natural and cultural treasures held within Kaʻū. Our family's mission is to raise our keiki to have a deep relationship with the places and people of where they live -not just their house and their neighborhood, but to know their moku, to enjoy and appreciate the coast, plants, and stories of place, old and new. Safeguarding and caring for the Kaʻū coastline allows *everyone* -including visitors, but especially the families who call Kaʻū and Hawaiʻi Island home - the potential for deepening relationships to place, maintaining a critical perspective of seeing themselves in the landscape, and perpetuating a strong sense of aloha for this island and her sources.

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 and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Ka'ū's lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka'ū's ancestors.

Mahalo,
Corie Yanger & Andrew Christie
808-430-0913/808-430-9363 and cmyanger@hawaii.edu/a duncan c@hotmail.com

February 10, 2021

State of Hawaiʻi Board of Land and Natural Resources blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

My name is Patrick Conant and I am familiar with the areas in which Kiloka'a and Manaka'a fishing villages occur. For at least a few years I have been assisting with volunteer native strand vegetation restoration efforts with the Hawaii Wildlife Fund under a permit from DOFAW. I believe that the area from Ka'alu'alu to about Ki'i might be the most intact native strand vegetation in the State and it deserves better protection. We have been pulling up fountain grass, sandbur and other weeds along the Waiohinu coast, between those two sites for several years now. We are attempting to contain those 2 grasses, along with other weeds so the area does not burn, nor would native plants be outcompeted.

Also, I am a former State of Hawaii Entomologist and I recall that Entomologist Dr. Karl Magnacca has found *Hylaeus*sp. native bees in the area, and those should be studied more thoroughly there so protection can be implemented as necessary.

I cannot speak to the cultural aspects of these two fishing villages, but I do know the area is rich in what appear to be ancient trails throughout the pahoehoe and even a'a lava flats. Petroglyphs seem relatively common and there are many of what must be temporary inclimate weather shelters under rock overhangs.

In closing, I very much support the effort of The Trust for Public Lands and Ala Kahakai Trail Association assisting the Ka'u Community acquire and protect these two ancient fishing villages and the surrounding cultural landscape and native plant communities. Both could be easily damaged without some form of protection, and to some extent, the plants already are. Neglect alone is damaging. But, I am optimistic this effort will succeed, with the terrestrial plant and cultural sitesand the shoreline best protected by access continuing to be limited to the existing trails rather than building roads.

Patrick Conant,

Volcano, HI

From: gary johnson <gpjohnson2951@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Mar 21, 2021 at 9:58 PM

Subject: Re: Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Preservation Update

To: Jodie Rosam < jodie.rosam@gmail.com >

To the BLNR,

This testimony is in regard to the acquisition of Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a lands by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association.

I am a resident of Naalehu and I have supported a number of acquisitions of land for the preservation of the Ka'u coastline.

In particular, I volunteer regularly at Kawa Bay, which is part of the County's holdings in Ka'u (acquired about five years ago.)

What I experience in the course of a day at Kawa Bay, represents the potential that Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a have to preserve the history, the ecology, and the spirit of shared community (aina) in Ka'u.

I work with Dwayne Pua and two other Hawaiians who have dedicated themselves to conserving and maintaining the land that for them has ancestral ties. I have helped to reintroduce native species. I have cleared the site of an ancient hale (as have Hawaiian families at a number of other sites.) I have worked to eliminate invasive species and opened up glades for larger species, such as acacia and Java plum. I have seen Dwayne rebuild the stonework channels for the freshwater springs that once supported Hawaiian villages, and more recently he and his crew are developing plots for traditional foods.

He is also working with the County, conservation groups and NOAA to create a long-term plan for the lagoons, tide pools and fish ponds.

Most importantly, his efforts have made Kawa Bay accessible in a way that has preserved its native flora, its history and its spirit.

This is the bay where all the locals learned to surf and it still draws surfers almost every day. Families come to the bay to fish and camp. My wife and I have hiked sections of the King's Trail that runs north along the coastline (it is being reestablished by local groups.)

Why does this matter? It matters because Ka'u is unique. Large corporations have tried on numerous occasions to "develop" sections of the coastline, and each time have failed. But the people of this community (Hawaiians, Asians and haoles) have remained. Together they respect the land, and they work to insure that the land and the waters will continue to enrich the lives of all who live here.

Lastly, in preserving coastlines like Kawa Bay, Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a, Ka'u is linking together a number of already conserved lands, not just a token site. Where else is it possible to

conserve large ecological areas and critical ocean habitat, within the boundaries of an engaged and committed community? Where else is it possible to conserve land that represents generations of people who respect and value that heritage?

Thank you for the opportunity to speak of the necessity to keep these lands in the public domain.

Sincerely,

Gary and Deborah Johnson

P.O. Box 777 94-6557 Lewa Lani St. Naalehu, HI 96772

William Keoni Fox

From: selah levine <selahbit@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 9:34 AM

To: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov; Reyna.Ramolete@tpl.org; fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Subject: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's

Fifests to Protect and Assuire Kielaka's and Manakai Trail Siching Village in Kel'a Llowei'

Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Selah Levine and I support Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land's efforts to help the Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala). Ala Kahakai Trail Association'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. ATA has a Ka'ū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Ka'ū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Ka'ū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Ka'ū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

Kiolaka'a is makai of Waiohinu Town and includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka'alu'alu Bay, portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system, 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 'ōpae 'ula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka'ū's paniolo traditions.

Manāka'a Fishing Village stands on the sea cliffs overlooking Waikapuna Bay, along with 22 precious cultural sites including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes. Over one mile of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the property and two ancient mauka-makai trails connect Na'ālehu with the coastline.

My family and neighbors enjoy this area for subsistence fishing. After the lava took the Pohoiki boat ramp we have no way to safely enter the ocean for fishing in Puna and now go to the this area of coastline to fish. I am sure that we are not the only family in Puna that frequent this area and due to increased pressure on this coastline it is even more important to protect it.

Without the protection this fragile coastline it will not sustain the needs of families who benefit from the natural and cultural resources of this land now, and for future generations.

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 and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Ka'ū's lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka'ū's ancestors.

Mahalo, Selah Levine 808-769-1173, selahbit@gmail.com February 5, 2021

State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

<u>I, Cherie Felzer s</u>trongly support Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land's efforts to help the Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala). Ala Kahakai Trail Association'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. ATA has a Ka'ū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Ka'ū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Ka'ū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Ka'ū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

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I am a mental health counselor, committed to caring for ourselves, each other, and the earth, these lands that we live on and breathe on. Part of my work is working with children, supporting them to learn how to be in right relation with themselves, each other and the land around them.

Our children become so alive with the natural around them to teach them, rather than the screens that are becoming so pervasive. I first came to Ka'u in 2003, and was immediately touched by the connection I felt to a different time. There was a very special part of Hawai'i that still felt alive here. I felt very privileged to be here, and as I came to know the community, understood that their connection to and protection of the land and the ways of life were part of what made it so special. Seeing clear to the ocean, unencumbered, with spaciousness, allowing plants and animals to flourish, brings wellbeing and connection to the people who live here, something that, as a mental health counselor, I see as imperative, as so many are struggling right now.

It is so important, not only to protect the land, and the Ka'u coastline, but the cultural richness that exists throughout this landscape, including the native plant habitat and ancient sites, so that we can continue to flourish here as human beings, feeling connected to something greater, in a challenging time, bringing up our children and teaching them about the plants and the animals and the history of Hawai'i, of Ka'u, of who they are.

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 and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Ka'ū's lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka'ū's ancestors.

Mahalo, Cherie Felzer Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Weaving Pathways 510-545-2709 weavingpathways@gmail.com I, John P. Kalua'u, support Ala Kahakai Trail Association's purchase of the Kiolakaa parcel. I am a rancher in Kau and presently lease a parcel in Kau for that purpose. I would like to see as much of the large lands parcels in Kau preserved and protected and not be developed. If the Association is successful in receiving the funds to purchase the parcel, it will be the last piece to connect Ka Lae to Honoapo for the benefit of the people of Kau. I ask the Land Board to please vote in favor of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association's funding request.

Feb. 15, 2021

State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

Aloha, and mahalo for giving us the opportunity to voice our opinion and concern regarding Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a. Our Ka'u community is lucky to have the vigilance of Ala Kahakai Trail Association and the efforts of The Trust for Public Lands to help protect our precious treasures. Let's agree, land is a limited resource. Once open space and access are developed or compromised; it's gone. Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village are priceless, needing protection and stewardship to honor the history of our ancestors and preserve the land for future generations.

It's estimated humans have modified more than 50% of Earth's land surface. At the current rate of growth, it is unsustainable.* Much of Hawaii's natural landscape is threatened by development, invasive species and global climate change. We've seen the loss of access on every island. It's in all of our best interests to protect the open spaces that haven't succumbed. Not only for their rich cultural significance and sensitive ecosystem, but for the bonding role they play in our community. It's an amazing experience to spend a day at Ka'alu'alu Bay: playing on the shore, surfing, or hiking the coast – you can't see one building. Please, let's keep it that way; for all future generations to experience taking their keiki to this place to experience just being there. It's so important, and once its gone, we won't have another chance.

Mahalo,

Angela Guidi and Soli Coleman PO Box 41 Na'alehu, HI 96772 spareroom@mac.com

* (cited from an Article in GSA Today by scholars Roger LeB. Hooke (School of Earth and Climate Sciences and Climate Change Institute, University of Maine) and José F. Martín-Duque (Dept. of Geodynamics and Geosciences Institute, Complutense University, Madrid, Spain)

February 23rd, 2021

State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

Foster Hair Design LLC strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land's efforts to help the Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala). Ala Kahakai Trail Association'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. ATA has a Ka'ū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Ka'ū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Ka'ū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Ka'ū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

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Manāka'a Fishing Village stands on the sea cliffs overlooking Waikapuna Bay, along with 22 precious cultural sites including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes. Over one mile of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the property and two ancient mauka-makai trails connect Na'ālehu with the coastline.

I (Kady Foster) and my husband (Drew Foster) own Foster Hair Design. We are a hairdresser/barber team with a salon in Naʿālehu. We as a family believe in supporting the people of Kaʿū and giving what we can to our communities. We strive to care and provide our services in this community for all who need it.

My daughter was born here in Ka'ū and is growing up here. I feel unbelievably fortunate that she gets to live and learn in a community that is as diverse and resilient as Ka'ū.

We live here because of the nature. In my belief system we understand that we are nature not just a part of it, but it. We need nature equally as we need water or oxygen. It is the birth place of both. Our families special connection to this area is the deeply profound connection that it is our honest home, the planet that provides life for us, and it is disappearing all around us. Most people on this planet would feel a sense of connection to this coastline. It is raw and true. It is the spirit that is each of us. Every sacrosanct piece of earth that is left needs to be saved and protected.

It is important to our family to protect the Ka'ū coastline because we believe the people of today have to start leaving the land in better condition then when we found it or soon enough our children will be deprived of natural resources.

To our family this is not a singular issue. Plenty of academic studies along with day to day truth shows us the rate of which humans are becoming depressed, anxious, overwhelmed, unhappy, etc. Yes, this is for a lot of complex reasons but these emotions are signals. This epidemic of suicide, depression, and anxiety disorders are screaming to us that we are not living a life that is aligned with being happy, joyful, or fulfilled in the way we know we could.

The raw land as it is, the Kaʻū, is our true and honest home. Just by looking at it alone we are gifted with a calmness, lightness, and largeness which is breathtaking and to significant for words. We are not meant to wipe away its beauty which took hundreds of thousands of years to create and we know it is irreplaceable. Like all beautiful and resourceful nature that has been remade by humans can never be undone. The state of Hawaii has been a victim to this for decades. Please consider that our future generations do not live without wildlife for we are made from it, we are it, without it there will be nothing left to support our human lives and the children that follow.

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 and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Ka'ū's lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka'ū's ancestors.

Mahalo,

Kady Foster Foster Hair Design LLC 808-895-2151 book@fosterhair.com March, 11, 2021

State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

I, Alex Wang, strongly support Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land's efforts to help the Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala). Ala Kahakai Trail Association'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. ATA has a Ka'ū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Ka'ū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Ka'ū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Ka'ū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

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Ka'alu'alu Bay is a special birding location for our native shorebirds such as the Kōlea (*Pluvialis fulva*), the 'Ūlili (*Tringa incana*) and the Huna kai (*Calidris alba*). Especially in fall and winter, this serves as a gathering place of these shorebirds and concentrates them in numbers far

exceeding nearly anywhere else on the Big Island. I have seen well over 200 kōlea in this bay at one time! The kōlea use the bay to rest in between tides when they can no longer feed on the exposed shoreline at low tide. Nearby development would be harmful for these birds and likely would drastically reduce the effectiveness of this stop over point as a resting area for the kōlea.

Additionally, I think there are those among us in the community at large that like to visit Ka'alu'alu for recreational bird watching. I have friends from Hilo, HPP, Volcano and even Oahu that have visited Ka'alu'alu for the express purpose of seeing the birds in this area. This is a very passive activity that has very little negative impact on the land or its resources. I think that building development adjacent to the bay would greatly diminish the scenic beauty and natural value of this location for birds and bird watchers alike.

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 and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Ka'ū's lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka'ū's ancestors.

Mahalo, Alex Wang Biologist and avid Bird Watcher (808) 937-7924, axwang12@gmail.com

William Keoni Fox

From: kevin beeboys.org <kevin@beeboys.org>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2021 11:20 AM

To: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov; reyna.ramolete@tpl.org; fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

February, 8, 2021

To whom it may concern,

<u>I very strongly</u> supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land's efforts to help the Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala). Ala Kahakai Trail Association'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. ATA has a Ka'ū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Ka'ū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Ka'ū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Ka'ū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

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I grew up in an area that had thousands of acres of open space, many farms and beautiful meadows and pastures were the fabric of the landscape in suburban Philadelphia. In the late 80's and early 90's many farmers died and their children who inherited these farms and meadows didn't have the same connection to the land, it was no longer viewed as an essential aspect of their life and many sold their beautiful land to the highest bidder who happened to be developers. These developers wished to extract the most value out of the land in the quickest most financially lucrative way, which was to subdivide the open space and build roads and homes. Once land has been sub-divided and developed there is no going back, no flocks of migratory geese to honk their way north in the spring and south in the autumn. This development has created many unforeseen consequences. Roads that once were easy to walk or bike on became too busy and filled with traffic it became dangerous to continue. The lack of foresight has also created flash flooding events in the area streams eroding their banks dropping trees and silting up the waterways, displacing freshwater mollusks and filling in swimming holes and fishing spots. This short-sighted rush to create jobs and wealth for a few has ruined the land for the many.

I left that space because the momentum was too great to stop and broke the balance between development and nature. People who seek quick short term monetary gains are drunk with greed. Progress is necessary in the

direction of resilience and regeneration. These costal lands are an asset to Ka'u and need to be preserved so that our future generations have the opportunity to experience life in it's wild form.

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 and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Ka'ū's lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka'ū's ancestors.

Mahalo, kevin oconnor Kevin@beeboys.org 808-987-7416 Beeboys.org

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

February 6, 2021

State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

BEE BOYS LLC strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land's efforts to help the Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala). Ala Kahakai Trail Association'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. ATA has a Ka'ū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Ka'ū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Ka'ū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Ka'ū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

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We are regenerative beekeepers, manufacturing food products and skin care products with our honeybee colonies. Our product quality and certification relies on natural beekeeping methods and pristine environmental conditions- including access to forage for our honeybees. The Ka'u

coast is unique, free from commercial agriculture, golf courses and developments that threaten bees and contaminate their honey and products. We've built a business, dependent on the rare & rich open space below our apiary, where our bees forage. We supply some of Hawaii's best hotels, grocers and boutiques with our coastal honey and products.

Protecting the coast protects the value of my company, the vitality of our bees, and the sustainability of our community. We chose coastal Ka'u to start our business, because the undeveloped lands offers us a rare and unparalleled product, that can't be found anywhere else on the planet.

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 and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Ka'ū's lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka'ū's ancestors.

Mahalo, Ryan Williamson Director / Owner Bee Boys LLC ryan@beeboys.org 808-333-6895 Beeboys.org From: Jeremy Vaeni
To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Cc: <u>CFonc</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Item C1B and C1C Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:25:02 AM

Aloha:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of my wife, Carol Fong, and myself in support of granting an award for the preservation of Kiolaka'a at Ka'alu'alu Bay and Manaka'a, the Maniania Pali above Waikapuna. Protecting the Ka'u coastline is of the utmost importance to us, certainly, but also to the island. If we continue to develop all of the postcardesque beauty of the island then we will only have postcards to refer to when we speak of it.

That does not even begin to address the cultural significance of preserving such places, which others can speak to better than we. We did not grow up here, but we plan on growing the rest of our lives together here in Ka'u. We treat our home as a bird sanctuary. We're here to protect them and their land and they let us squat here in our house. At least that's the way we see it. We believe in maintaining as much natural balance as possible. And I think we all see, at this point in history, that we need to alter our vision of the future from one of development and so-called "forward thinking" to one of appreciation for and preservation of what is here right now: terrific beauty, the roots of Hawaiian culture, the miracle of life itself.

Please, let's not continue to consume the island until we're the last organisms standing. Let's protect the Ka'u coastline and see what grows there when we don't build there.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Vaeni & Carol Fong

From: Iria- Carmen

To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Item C1B and C1C Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a

Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 2:25:19 PM

Aloha,

I wanted to write in support of C1B and C1C. This area is truly pristine and one of a kind; it should be preserved for future generations. It is a sacred and memorable place for anyone that has ever visited, surfed, camped, fished, or just hiked through.

I remember the last time I went down for my friend's birthday a few months ago. We were able to enjoy a part of the coastline all to ourselves from the sandy coves to the tide pools to just watching the waves. It is truly a magical and untouched place that should be preserved for future generations. I can't express this highly enough.

Iria-Carmen (808) 990-0372

From: Caitlin Kryss & Taz Rosam

P.O. Box 711687

Mountain View, HI. 96771

To: Hawaii BLNR

Kalanimoku Building 1151 Punchbowl St. Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support Item C1B and C1C Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a

Dear Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in support of the protection of Ka'u's Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a lands. These lands provide critical habitat for numerous native plant and animal species, many of which are threatened or endangered. These lands also represent the cultural heritage of the people of Ka'u, and deserve to be protected for future generations. These lands are connected with a multitude of cultural stories, sustainable use practices, indigenous knowledge, archeological significance, scientific study, critically important habitats for native species. Losing these lands to development and destruction would be absolutely devastating. Our family is born and raised in Ka'u, and the health of these lands is a piece of our identity.

At a time when human impact on the natural world has resulted in mass extinction of many species, and the destruction of indigenous lands has disconnected people from their heritage, we are presented with this unique and powerful opportunity to conserve something so precious. These lands are so much more to so many people, and if they are preserved and protected, they will remain a resource for our children and their children. If these lands are lost to development, we can never reclaim them, and they will be relegated to the list of lost opportunities of gifting the next generations with something intact, healthy, natural and culturally important. I urge you to please choose to protect them.

I also want to extend my deep mahalo to the many dedicated people who are committed to protecting our special, unique, and precious island home.

He Ali'i Ka 'Āina; He Kauwā ke Kanaka The land is chief; man is its servant

Mahalo nui,

Caitlin Kryss & Taz Rosam

From: Justin Lee

To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Item C1B and C1C Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a

Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:09:34 PM

Aloha,

My name is Justin Lee, and I'm emailing in support of item C1B and C1C Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a. As an avid fisherman, spearfisherman, ophi picking, ogo collecting, 'a'ama catching local Big Island boy this south coast holds a special place to my heart. With such a special place available to save for future generation to use for cultural activities and as a natural classroom I believe it's of the upmost importance to protect these areas. If you have questions please don't hesitate to email or call me.

Mahalo,

Justin Lee (808) 315-2584; Cell (808) 896-1664; Office JustinL@Haloaaina.com

PO Box 1677 Honoka'a, HI 96727

From: Justin Yeh

To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Item C1B and C1C Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a

Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 3:01:23 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am in support of Item C1B and C1C Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a.

I have grown up going to these coastal areas to enjoy camping and fishing with family and friends. This relationship with this place has continued to grow along as I have. Preserving areas like these is as important as ever to local people who gather resources and practice cultural protocols. Are reliance on tourism has shown its downfalls in this most recent pandemic. I believe we as a community should be able to access and protect our natural resources like Kiolakaa and manakaa.

Mahalo, Justin Yeh

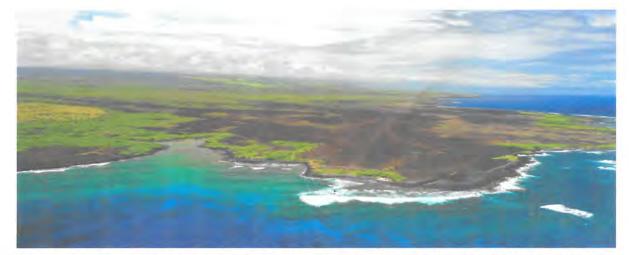
From: Allan Franco

To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:14:27 PM

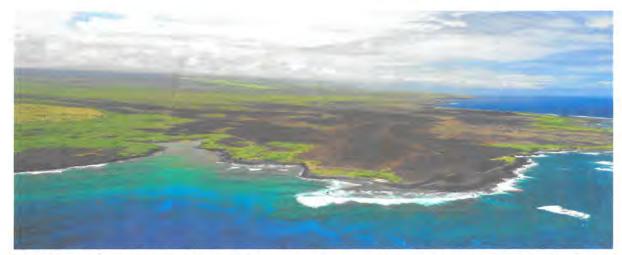
HI MY NAME IS ALLAN FRANCO, IM A LOCAL MEN BORN AND RAISED IN THE ISLAND OF MOLOKAI, I NOW LIVE ON THE BIG ISLAND, I FISH FOR FOOD FOR MY FAMILY AND PICK LIMU FOR KAUKAU, AND OPIHI FOR MY FAMILY. I GREW UP AS A SMALL BOY ALWAYS GOING TO THE BEACH, AND IM 62 YEARS OLD NOW AND HAVE BEEN FISHING FOR ULUA FOR 43 YEARS. AND NOW I FISH KAU DISTRICT. SO YES I DO SUPPORT SUBJECT ITEM C1B AND C1C Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a ALOHA



We, the undersigned, support the hui of Kaʻū families, community members, and organizations who are working with the nonprofits Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land to help our Kaʻū community purchase and forever protect Kiolakaʻa and Manākaʻa Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala) in Kaʻū, Hawaiʻi Island.

--PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY--

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BRUCE WRIGHT	Oclan View Puna Luu BEACH	540 421 5758	BEWKOA@ BMAIL, COM
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Deborch Johnson	Naalshu	303-324-6115	adbra johnson egmal)
Zohn Sins	Konel Naideho	808-990-0665	Johnwsims sbertubeland
DIANA Prontes	NAACeha	808-989-877	Biana previtisses ym
Liat E. Thomas	- Ocean View	808-8963231	liat 270 earthlink not 000
Dong J Lavorin	Ocean View Hi.	808-4304166	
Greg Vlasek	Pahala	916.838 0872	gregilasek@gmail.com
MARK ASDER	Ø V	936-1608	mark redered quact com
Kiwina de Soto	1) V	987-3366	Sejuslyte & small com
Linda Flouring	Na'a	808-866-6649	LFlournoy81@yahoo.com



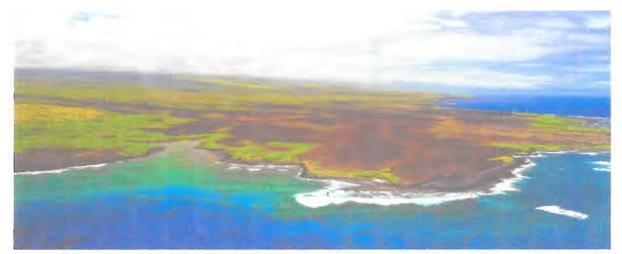
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NAME	WHAT TOWN DO YOU LIVE IN?	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
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Nova Hammer	Oceanview	808 464-0679	
Dane Keffa	Ocean View	809 747 6761	
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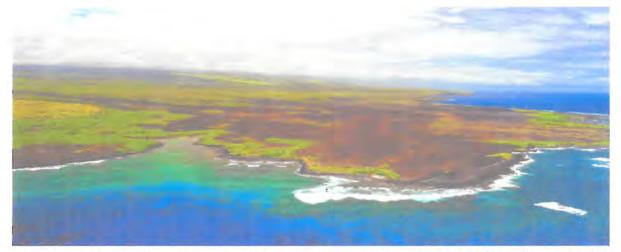
908.464-0639



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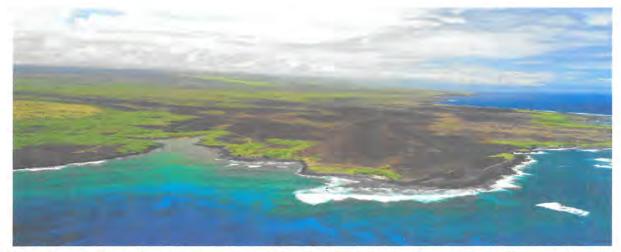
NAME	WHAT TOWN DO YOU LIVE IN?	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
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Moscel Thoma	MARK TWAIN	send info pls	thoma 808 @ gmail.com
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Screna Straface	Oceaniore.	80x 785-0318	Serena Straface 8eg maili Co.
Joy Ridgely	I kay area		
Joy Ridgely Janjiceke hanar fikahakahilul Keanaai isa	heekalauraek Jieu	808 464-9092	auntyloke@gmail.com
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1	Discovery Harbor	808 929 1159	shibrya 8@ hawaii-edu



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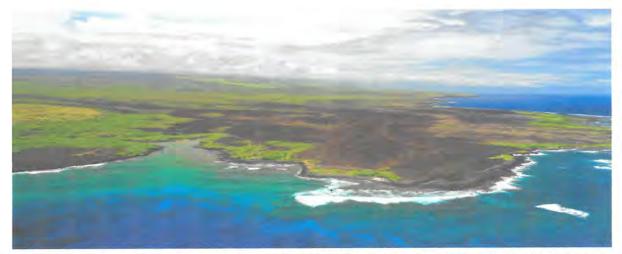
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NAME	WHAT TOWN DO YOU LIVE IN?	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
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Leke of Driv	Mountage Vizi	808 31568417	
Falk Cha	No aledy		E sathagade Ya Han
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Jana C SHIMAN	NAR CKH	808 3431770	
Valentin Holmes	Ocean View	808-929-9007	Uh Valholmes @ of mail.co
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Joy Santiago	Naalehu	808 4431645	ATTO
Elizabeth Crook	Naalehr	808.345.0511	Elizabethoropi
Een Crook	Maglehu	808.345.0511	



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Kitai Kiein	//	(808) 756.2022	Kirinkaya aol.com
Jon Milhan	Volcano	396-7672	Johnikaro Notraficom



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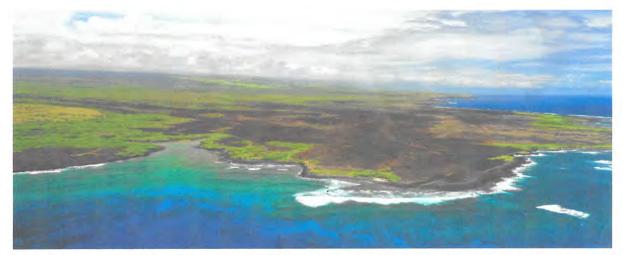
NAME	WHAT TOWN DO YOU LIVE IN?	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
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Calvin Y Hamada	Naalehu	808 929-7373	None
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NAME	WHAT TOWN DO YOU LIVE IN?	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
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Liz Crook	Naalehu	808-345-0511	E
Josh Crook	()	1)	11
James Schutz	Naalehu	307-272.0208	dschulz 77e hotmail.com
Heidi Flores	Naakhu		hideebeach@yanoo.com
ABRam Sandow	00	808-491-9468	a brain sandoval 1 0 yuhoo. cm
Rounk Reugen	Whishina		* 1
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Tim KALLAI	DOEAN VIEW	808 346-7586	timi kallai @ gmail. com
Sacy Richard	Ocen Vin	8084303444	Terrous. Koup gmail, com
(han Bred	Nuahehu	406-855-5755	Chandrans A @yahou
			homesterd charles 320 amail con



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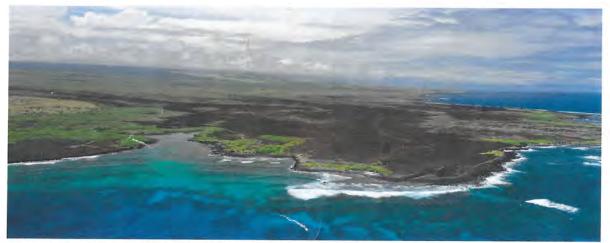
NAME	WHAT TOWN DO YOU LIVE IN?	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
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Deborah Rebuits	Read to the sea Capt. Cook	808-989 7773	lovewhiledove @ Rol.com
Bruce Bokennor	92-1320	315-0145	
(ADRY ROSE	MILOLII	854-7610	(ARRY QUILLES -
			ROSEWOOD CRAFF, CT
		4.	
41			



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Kamalani Fujikawa	Laite Oahu	808 747-1629	y 55 11
McKinly & Nendy Davis	Naalehu	804 929-9240	N/A
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Patricia Anderson	Kona	808.345.2727	NA
Jaime Ferner	Kona	808-443-9525	ivferner@gmail.com



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--PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY---

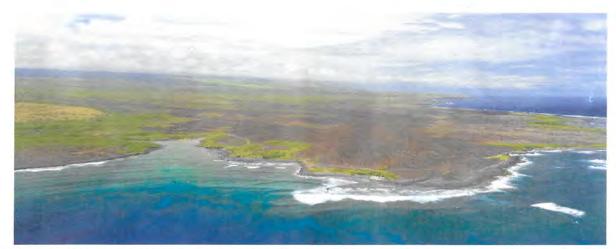
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Nicole Alverez	Kona	808-224-3231	nicole_alverezayahoooco
RichAlberts Jr	Kona	808-3769432	n/a
	1"		



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Hilani Lipe	Wai'offiny	(808) 300.8821	KUKES nomm/20 gonail com
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TRE GENCH	Ocen Dien H	385 7315	fre@ RAI-HICOM
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