

From: [Sophia Hanoa](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#); [Smith, David G](#); [Penn, David](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of opposition to The Ala Kahakai Trail Assoc. acquiring more lands in Ka'u
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:51:09 PM

03/30/2021

Aloha Chairperson Case and members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

My name is Sophia Hanoa, and I am writing to you in strong opposition to the acquisition of interests and rights in specific parcels of land having value as a resource to the State, for: B. Ala Kahakai Trail Association, \$1,475,000, for the acquisition of approximately 1,841.3 acres at Ka'u. I was born, raised, and currently live in Ka'u. My family has been here for generations and continues to fulfill the kuleana (responsibilities in perpetuating the unique cultural traditions left to us by our Kupuna. Mauka to Makai. My husband Pernell and I have 14 grandchildren who are all lineal descendants of Ka'u. Our family as well as others have an invested interest in protecting our sacred Ka'u for generations to come. Our Kupuna knew what they were doing when it comes to preservation and conservation that is why we have the Ka'u we all enjoy today. I am also the Ka'u Representative for Pele Defense, Activity Coordinator for the Ka'u Advisory Council, Member of the Ka'u Multicultural Society, and Hana Laulima Lahui 'o Ka'u.

Primary Concerns:

1. Selective and limited community input.

The Ala Kahakai Trails Association has not disclosed the real intent for acquiring so much land here in Ka'u. Nor did they have the respect to get input from the elders in our communities. This is a violation of traditional cultural practices here in Ka'u. Using self-proclaimed cultural specialists from outer islands is an insult to our Kupuna who are the genuine cultural specialist here in Ka'u. It also reflects the arrogance of such individuals which the Kupuna of Ka'u refers to as maha'oi.(nosey, of not knowing their place.)

2. Who is the Ala Kahakai Trails Association? What is the history of their board members?

What is the vetting process of these associations and their members? What have they invested or contributed to Ka'u that gives them the right to dictate to the people what is best? We have grassroots organizations that have proven themselves throughout the years, which our 'ohana has always been a part of. From the 1970's, Ka 'Ohana 'o Kalae protecting Ka'u from the development of spaceport. Pele Defense protecting the Iwi Kupuna, Ka'u, and native rights to this day. Punalu'u Preservation, Ka'u Preservation protected Ka'u mauka to makai. Protecting the endangered species which includes the people of Ka'u. Where were all these government agencies, cultural specialists, lineal descendants who claim to have aloha and concerns for Ka'u? Mr. Fox and his 'ohana were not there. Kaleo Paik, AKTA, La'akea Sukanuma was never there.

3. Cultural conflict

There are those of us who are not Christians and still believe and honor the ways of old. Our sacred sites are still here for a reason. They still serve a purpose that not many are privy to. Especially those who are not from here. In 2019 Keoni Fox went to Kawa and tried to place a carving of the God Lono on Ke'eku Heiau. It was the young men who are the stewards of the area that told him he could not do that. They told him that this heiau belongs to the God Ku. Ke'eku Heiau is a luakini (human sacrificial heiau.) It has nothing to do with Ke'eku Heiau in Kona which belongs to the God Lono. There was a verbal argument and Keoni Fox and his company left. In 2020 during the time of Makahiki Kaleo Paik went to Ke'eku Heiau at Kawa and although the stewards told her not to go onto the heiau she exchanged words with them. "No one was going to tell her anything. She is the Princess of the Winter Solstice and there to honor Lono." Again, they told her this was not a place for Lono. Her arrogant behavior was evident by her own testimony she presented to the BLNR in January. Despite the signs to keep out, she went onto the Heiau. People like Keoni Fox and Kaleo Paik are disrespectful and ignorant when it comes to the traditional cultural protocols here in Ka'u. It is the Kupuna here in Ka'u who is left to right their wrongs and keep Ka'u, Ka'u.

4. Accessibility/ Transparency

Since the AKTA acquired Waikapuna without the input from our Kupuna and community, there is still no management plan, but locked gates. The people of Ka'u now have to ask for permission from Keoni Fox to exercise their inherited rights. What will happen to our grandchildren and future generations? In Mr. Fox's Testimony to the BLNR he stated that he had left-over money and wanted to use it towards the purchase of Kaunamano. What happened to that money? Will there be cell phone towers along the shoreline? Will all the lands AKTA acquire be leased to Michelle Galimba? The community deserves answers. There is also a member on the Legacy Land Commission Board that is also part of the PONC Commission. The people of Ka'u deserve transparency and answers.

It is my hope that the Legacy Land Conservation Commission strongly considers my concerns for my opposition. The lands in Ka'u should be in the hands of the Ka'u people. The Legacy Land Commission should work with current grass roots organizations like The Ka'u Multicultural Society to acquire these lands, if the real intent is truly to preserve Mama Ka'u, our sacred cultural sites and traditions for future generations.

Mahalo

Sophia Hanoa

hanoa.sophia@aol.com

808-928-6235

From: [Jazmine Rolon](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Preserve the Naalehu Coast
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:56:03 PM

I am writing you today to express my concern as a hawaii citizen over developing on coastal lands such as Naalehu and Pololu. These are sacred places, that need to be protected for future generations to come. This is such a simple concept especially for hawaii, it baffles me that the public has to continue to fight for the aina from our own local government.

Say/vote against developing in Naalehu so we dont have to vote you all out next election.

-Jazmine | Kona, Big Island

From: [Reyna Ramolete](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Cc: [William Keoni Fox](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request to provide live spoken testimony - Legacy Land Commission Mtg - Wed March 31, 2 pm
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:57:49 PM

Aloha Commissioners,

I am writing to register the following individuals to provide live testimony at the **Legacy Land Commission Meeting** on Wed, March 31, 2021 at 2 pm for **Agenda Item 2:**

Lea Hong:
Reyna Ramolete Hayashi:
Keoni Fox:
Kaleo Paik:
Nohealani Ka'awa:
Jodie Rosam:
Michelle Galimba:
Leilani Rodrigues:
Laakea Sukanuma:
Pelehonuamea Harman:
Megan Lamson:
Aina Akamu:
Wendy Vance:
John Replogle:
Emma Keohokalole:
Fred Meinecke:

Mahalo,
Reyna

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi
Aloha 'Āina Project Manager



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

Creating parks and protecting land for people.
[tpl.org](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: [William Keoni Fox](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 72 - Testimony Agenda Item 2
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 2:05:18 PM
Attachments: [ATA Summary of Community Outreach 2021.03.23.pdf](#)
[Ka"u Community Meeting Follow Up \(Kioloka"a & Manāka"a\) 031621.pdf](#)
[Ka"u Community Mtg Invite.pdf](#)
[Ka"u Talk Story with Ala Kahakai Trail Association 012921.pdf](#)
[Kau Community Meeting Email Invite 020921.pdf](#)
[LLCP Meeting 033121 ATA Testimony.pdf](#)

Please see attached written support letter and community outreach summary with attachments.

Mahalo

Keoni Fox

Ala Kahakai Trail Association

(808) 351-6279 mobile



**Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Summary of Ka'ū Community Outreach
Kiolaka'a**

Summary of Ka'ū Community Outreach

On January 22, 2021, the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) deferred a decision to approve grant awards for Fiscal Year 2021 Legacy Land Conservation Program funding for Kiolaka'a. BLNR instructed the applicant, Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) to do further community engagement with the goal of creating more of a collaborative community driven preservation effort. Chair Case encouraged everyone who participated in the BLNR meeting "to talk to each other pretty seriously and try to sort this out in a way that gets as much agreement as possible."

ATA is committed to addressing questions and concerns raised at the BLNR meeting in order to unite the community as much as possible and to satisfy the request of the Board. Since the BLNR meeting in January, ATA has conducted extensive community engagement and outreach which has included: reaching out to individuals who testified in opposition to the LLCP grant funding and inviting them to meet and talk story; scheduling phone, zoom and in-person meetings with community members; organizing and hosting a community meeting facilitated by an independent facilitator and advertised widely to the broader Ka'ū community which was attended by over 60 people; presenting to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka'ū; sharing at the Hawai'i Island Burial Council; conducting a site visit with Representative Jeanne Kapela; meeting with members of the Aha Moku Council of Ka'ū including kupuna and individuals who were opposed; setting up a booth to engage with community members at the local 'O Ka'ū Kākou Farmer's Market in Na'alehu; and meeting with Senator Mazie Hirono who introduced federal legislation to protect the Ka'ū coastline in 2013.

Through these outreach and engagement efforts, the community sentiment has been one of overwhelming community support to protect the Ka'ū coastline (including iwi kūpuna, cultural sites, and sensitive ecosystems) from development, including ATA's efforts to protect and acquire these parcels.

The community feels that public access should be managed to protect the land's cultural and natural resources, but that managed access should not negatively impact cultural and subsistence activities along the coastline (gathering, fishing, etc.). The community feels that vehicular access should be managed to prevent overuse, damage, and degradation of natural and cultural resources due to the potential negative impacts of recreational access.

The community understands that while there may be varying opinions about issues such as the extent and details of managed public access, the need to secure public funding to protect the land now is of utmost importance and outweighs management issues which can and will be resolved through a community management planning process, if the land is successfully protected. The community has also expressed that if ATA is successful in protecting these parcels, they want to be included as an integral part of ATA's community management planning process and stewardship efforts.

We respectfully request that BLNR approve FY 2021 LLCP funding for Kiolaka'a and include a condition in the Grant Agreement that states:

If the Kiolaka'a conservation acquisition is successful:

1. ATA commits 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 who will hold the Conservation Easement.
2. ATA commits 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.
3. ATA commits to inviting Ka'ū descendants, residents, and organizations to partner on stewardship projects for Kiolaka'a and/or participate on the Stewardship Committee.
4. ATA commits to hosting quarterly community meetings to keep the Ka'ū community updated about its land protection efforts.

Timeline of Ka'ū Community Outreach

1/22/2021	BLNR Meeting
1/25/2021	Draft Contact List of Testimony in Opposition (Names, Emails, Phone Numbers)
1/27 -1/28	ATA was contacted and exchanged messages with Vivian-Malia Moana Fa'agata who shared her thoughts through social media
1/27/2021	ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Nohea Kaawa, talked with Vivian-Malia Moana Fa'agata by phone to try to address her questions and concerns.
2/04/2021	DLNR LLCP determined that testifiers' contact email addresses cannot be disclosed as it is considered personal information.
1/29/2021	ATA Sent Email Invitation to community members who testified in opposition (to either Kaunamano or Kiolaka'a) inviting them to meet by phone or zoom. <i>See attached email.</i>
1/29 – 2/10	ATA Called, left voicemail messages, and texted community members who testified in opposition, inviting them to meet or talk over the phone. Several people responded and ATA scheduled meetings with those individuals right away. All of these discussions were very positive. A few people shared they were not ready or willing to talk. The rest did not respond. ATA made every effort to engage in a dialogue with these community members. <i>Detailed records of our outreach are available upon request.</i>
2/2/2021	ATA & TPL Met with Sandra Demoruelle, of Green Sands Subdivision by phone. Sandra was opposed but is now a supporter of the project.
2/3/2021	ATA & TPL Met with Malialuika Pualeilehua Gentry by phone. She was opposed but is now willing to assist with stewardship and consultation for preservation.

2/5/2021	ATA Met with Ann Bosted (The Cave Conservancy of Hawaii) by phone. She is a supporter.
2/5/2021	ATA Ka'ū Stewardship Committee Meeting
2/7/2021	ATA Led a hike as part of a meeting with Margaret McGuire (former Secretary, Pele Defense Fund) and Alison Yahna, both of Green Sands Subdivision.
2/8/2021	ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Michelle Galimba, talked with Kaweni Ibarra in person to better understand his questions and concerns.
2/8/2021	ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Nohea Kaawa, talked with Joel Velez in person to try to address his questions and concerns.
2/8/2021	ATA Sent Email Invitation for Community Meeting. <i>See attached email.</i>
2/10-2/15	Advertised Community Meeting in Ka'ū Calendar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Announcement</i> here • <i>News brief</i> here
2/9/2021	ATA & TPL Met with Kala Mossman by phone. Kala was opposed but is now a supporter of the project.
2/10/2021	ATA met with Wendy Vance (President, Ho'omalua Ka'ū) in person. She supports the project.
2/10/2021	ATA Volunteer and Supporter, LaVanda Kainoa Salvador spoke with Debi Javar by phone to try to address her questions and concerns.
2/11/2021	ATA Shared at the Nā Ala Hele Trail Advisory Council Meeting (virtual)
2/12/2021	ATA Presented at the 10 th Annual Wiliwili Tree Festival hosted by the Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative (virtual)
2/14/2021	ATA met with Kawehi Ryder (Executive Director, Uhane Pohaku Na Moku of Hawaii) and Kumu Hula Debbie Ryder (Halau Hula O Leionalani) in person. They both support the project.
2/15/2021	ATA Volunteer and Supporter, Laakea Sukanuma, met with Kawaikapuokalani Hewitt (Aha Moku Council Lehua) by phone to try to address his questions and concerns.
2/15/2021	Aha Moku requested a meeting with TPL by zoom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aha Moku would not allow ATA Board Members, Keoni Fox and Kaleo Paik to participate • 8 Attendees: Leimana DaMate, Kawaikapu, Rocky, Darlyne Vierra, Jeff Kekoa, Kaweni Ibarra, Reyna Ramolete Hayashi (TPL), Lea Hong (TPL) • TPL gave a short presentation and addressed questions and concerns. It was a productive meeting.

- 2/16/2021 ATA hosted Ka'ū Community Meeting
- Facilitated by Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED). HACBED helped with the Ka'ū Community Development Plan in 2017.
 - Over 60 attendees. *See attached list.*
 - *See updates to ATA website with: [Video Recording, Powerpoint, Summary of Themes](#)*
 - *All who attended the meeting were overwhelmingly in favor of protecting the coast, and supportive of the conservation projects. Some participants were frustrated that those who expressed opposition didn't attend the meeting to share their concerns and engage in a dialogue. While there was productive discussion about the extent and details of how to best manage public access, there was strong consensus that the need to secure public funding to protect the land now outweighs management issues which can and will be resolved through a community management planning process.*
- 2/16-2/17 Ka'ū Calendar coverage of Community Meeting
- *Ka'ū 2/16 news brief [here](#)*
 - *Ka'ū 2/16 news brief [here](#)*
- 2/17/2021 ATA Outreach at 'O Ka'ū Kākou Na'alehu Farmers Market
- Set up a booth and shared fact sheet, map, frequently asked questions
 - 145 community members signed in support. *See attached.*
 - ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Jodie Rosam, talked with Olivia Ling in person to try to address her concerns and questions.
- 2/17–3/13 ATA Outreach at The Bookshack in Waiohinu. Posted fact sheet, map, frequently asked questions
- 2/18/2021 ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Jodie Rosam, had a second meeting with Olivia Ling in person to further discuss her concerns.
- 2/18/2021 ATA Shared at Hawai'i Island Burial Council Meeting (virtual)
- The Ka'ū Burial Council Representative, Scott Mahoney, is supportive of the project and has attended many site visits.
- 2/18/2021 ATA Presented to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka'ū (virtual)
- 16 Attendees: Berkeley Yoshida (President), Paulette Ke (Vice President), Aina Akamu (Secretary), Moana Deleon (Treasurer), Jeanette Howard (Director), Nadine Ebert (Director), Halani Berard (Director), Darlyne Vierra, Kainoa Sharpe, June Chow, Cathy Arnold, Leina'ala Enos, Kaleo Paik, Keoni Fox, Jodie Rosam, Pele Harman
- 2/21/2021 ATA met with Megan Lamson, (Executive Director, Hawaii Wildlife Fund) by phone. She supports the project.
- 2/23/2021 ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Pele Harman, talked with Paulette Ke (Vice President, Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka'ū) by phone to address her questions and concerns.

- 2/23/2021 ATA Volunteer and Supporter, Laakea Sukanuma, talked with Kenneth Makuakane, Kahu of Kawaiaha'o Church and song writer and leader of the Pandanus Club musical group. He supports the project.
- 2/24/2021 ATA Outreach at 'O Ka'ū Kākou Na'alehu Farmers Market
- Set up a booth and shared fact sheet, map, frequently asked questions
 - 30 community members signed in support. *See attached.*
- 2/28/2021 ATA met with Roy Loando (Cattle Rancher, current Kiolaka'a pasture lessee) by phone. He is a supporter.
- 3/01/2021 ATA Meeting and Site Visit to Kiolaka'a and Ka'alu'alu Bay with Representative Jeanne Kapela (District 5) and her assistant, Claire Mason. Led by Jodie Rosam. Representative Kapela is a supporter.
- 3/02/2021 Ka'ū Radio Station, live announcement. Project updates will be streamed online and posted on station website.
- 3/6/2021 Aha Moku requested an in-person meeting with ATA at Punalu'u Bakery, Na'alehu
- 12 Attendees: Darlyne Vierra, Jeff Kekoa, Aloha Beck, Leimana DaMate (Executive Director), Tanya Ibarra, Malie Ibarra, Paulette Ke, Keamalu Waltjen, Herbert Waltjen, Nohea Kaawa (ATA Stewardship Committee), Keoni Fox (ATA Board Member), Leilani Rodrigues (ATA Stewardship Committee)
 - It was a productive dialogue. Community members were able to ask questions and express concerns which ATA answered and addressed. Leimana DaMate suggested entering into a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement between ATA and some of these community members or perhaps another entity. She had first mentioned this memorandum in a phone conversation with ATA on February 17 and again on February 18. The memorandum was to be drafted by Aha Moku and sent to ATA for review before the meeting on March 06. However, ATA did not receive any draft memorandum from Aha Moku. ATA is still willing to consider any proposals.
- 3/10/2021 ATA met with John Kalua'u, President of Native Hawaiian General Services and DHHL Kamaoa Pastoral Lessee, by phone. He supports the project.
- 3/11/2021 ATA met with Senator Mazie Hirono as part of the Annual Hike the Hill Conference in Washington DC, a joint effort by the American Hiking Society and the Partnership for the National Trails System (virtual). She is supportive.
- 3/12/2021 ATA met with Keohokalole 'Ohana (virtual). Their 'ohana supports the project.
- 3/16/2021 ATA emailed an update to attendees of February 16 Community Meeting. *See attached email.*
- Shared link to the Community Meeting video recordings
 - Shared copies of Power Point Slides, Summary of themes from the meeting, and Frequently Asked Questions

- Updated the community about the need to withdraw the Manāka'a LLC funding request due to the landowner's timeline and the opportunity to protect Manāka'a through a privately funded conservation easement.
- 3/16/2021 Ka'ū Calendar coverage
 - *Ka'ū 3/16 news brief* [here](#)
- 3/18/2021 Ka'ū Radio Station, live interview and talk story with ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Jodie Rosam.
- 3/18/2021 ATA Presented Updates to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka'ū (virtual)
 - 16 Attendees: Berkeley Yoshida (President), Paulette Ke (Vice President), Aina Akamu (Secretary), Moana Deleon (Treasurer), Jeanette Howard (Director), Nadine Ebert (Director), Halani Berard (Director), Darlyne Vierra, Kainoa Sharpe, June Chow, Cathy Arnold, Keoni Fox, Jodie Rosam, Pele Harman, Kalani Redmayne, and Nalei Young.

From: [William Keoni Fox](#)
To: [William Keoni Fox](#)
Subject: [External] Ka'u Community Meeting Follow Up (Kioloka'a & Manaka'a)
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:46:55 AM
Attachments: [2-16-2021 Protect Kioloka'a & Manaka'a Community Meeting.pdf](#)
[ATA FAQs 2021.02.16.pdf](#)
[2-16-21 ATA Community Mtg Themes + Q&A final clean.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha kakou

Mahalo for participating in last month's community meeting to discuss the protection of Kioloka'a and Manaka'a. We appreciate all of your mana'o and feedback. Through this enriching experience, we heard why the coastline is important to the Ka'u community and the overwhelming support to protect it, we identified areas in which Ala Kahakai Trail Association can improve to uphold its kuleana and we discussed solutions on how to build capacity and malama these lands in partnership with the community. Please find attached the following documents:

- Summary of themes from the meeting
- Presentation slides
- Frequently Asked Questions

The recorded videos of the community meeting and four speak-out sessions can be found on our website at the link below.

<http://www.alakahakaitrail.org/kakoo-kau>

Important Manaka'a Update:

Because other conservation projects were ranked above Manaka'a (ranked # 3) and the project is only eligible for a small partial Legacy Land Conservation Program award in fiscal year 2021, we were not able to raise sufficient acquisition funds and could not offer to buy the property from the landowner. The Trust For Public Land continued to negotiate with the landowner, but the owner rejected our offers and could not wait for us to raise and secure sufficient public funding for the conservation acquisition. In the interim, the landowner decided to lower their listing price, putting the property at increased and severe risk of being sold and developed.

However, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) worked to find another conservation solution that could meet the landowner's asking price, timeline and urgent need to sell. TPL and ATA applied for and received a grant from a private philanthropic foundation to allow ATA to acquire a Conservation Easement over the property. This easement will keep the land in agriculture and protect its cultural and natural resources including the trail system. The landowner recently put the property under contract to sell to a private buyer. At closing, the buyer has agreed to convey and grant a conservation easement to ATA in order to protect the property's agricultural,

cultural, and natural resources in perpetuity.

Therefore, ATA notified the Legacy Land Conservation Program (Department of Land and Natural Resources) that we are withdrawing our grant application for acquisition funding for Manaka'a so that the funding can go to other worthy conservation projects.

We Need Your Kokua!

Although we have found an alternative conservation solution for Manaka'a, we are still in need of support and funding from the Legacy Land Conservation Program to protect Kiolaka'a. The Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) has not scheduled this yet, but we expect the BLNR to reconsider the grant award for Kiolaka'a at either the meeting on April 9 or April 23. We will send out another notice via email once this agenda item has been scheduled so you know when and how to submit written or oral testimony in support.

Mahalo for your aloha, participation and commitment to protect our Ka'u coastline.

Me ke aloha,

Keoni Fox

Ala Kahakai Trail Association

fox@alakahakaitrail.org

KA'Ū COMMUNITY MEETING PROTECTING KIOLAKA'A & MANĀKA'A

Hosted by: Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Tuesday February 16, 2021
4:30-6:30 pm
Online Zoom Meeting

Register to participate at this link:

<https://tpl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0sc0GoqTMqG9KW8AzGEslpLvSD819y7G93>

The Ka'ū community has been working for years to preserve its beloved 80 mile coast. Ala Kahakai Trail Association has partnered with The Trust for Public Land, descendants, and community organizations to protect Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a. Both of these coastal properties are at serious risk of subdivision and development.

Ala Kahakai Trail Association invites the Ka'ū community to participate in a dialogue about:

- Protecting Kiolaka'a & Manāka'a for conservation, agriculture, and cultural preservation,
- To hear suggestions about how ATA can partner and collaborate with the community,
- To listen to the community's vision for community-based management and stewardship of these lands



Ala Kahakai Trail Association's nonprofit 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 past, present and future. ATA's vision is community-based management of the trail and its surrounding natural and cultural landscape. We welcome your feedback and collaboration. We have deep respect and aloha for the Ka'ū community. Protecting these places for future generations cannot happen without your mana'o, participation, and stewardship.

Because it's not safe to meet in person due to COVID, we will meet online via zoom but hope to meet in person when it is safe to gather again.

For questions or more information please contact Keoni Fox fox@alakahakaitrail.org
www.alakahakaitrail.org

From: [William Keoni Fox](#)
To: [William Keoni Fox](#)
Subject: [External] Ka'u Talk Story with Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 3:00:47 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha kakou

Mahalo for sharing your feelings and concerns about Ala Kahakai Trail Association's (ATA) involvement in the protection of Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a. We heard loud and clear that you and others in Ka'u have felt excluded in planning for the future of these lands and the lands at Waikapuna and Kaunamano. Please understand that was not our intention. There are no excuses, but some of our progress in reaching out to you and the broader Ka'u community has been hindered by COVID-19. Please let us assure you that ATA's vision is community-based management of the trail and its surrounding natural and cultural resources. Community-based management cannot happen without you and everyone in Ka'u.

We welcome your participation and collaboration as integral parts of the planning and management process. We have deep respect and aloha for the 'ohana and kupuna of Ka'u and protecting these places for future generations cannot happen without your mana'o, participation, and active stewardship by the Ka'u community.

Because it's not safe to meet in person due to COVID, we would love to talk story with you over the phone or by zoom to hear more of your mana'o. If you are open to talking story, please send us your phone number and let us know the best dates / times to reach you. If you want to meet by zoom we are happy to set up a zoom meeting link.

Looking forward to connecting with you.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kaleo Paik, Secretary & Board Member, Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Keoni Fox, Board Member, Ala Kahakai Trail Association

William Keoni Fox

From: William Keoni Fox <fox@alakahakaitrail.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2021 9:47 PM
To: William Keoni Fox
Subject: Ka'u Community Meeting Invite, Tuesday, Feb 16 4:30-6:30 (Kioloka'a & Manāka'a)
Attachments: Ka'u Community Mtg Invite.pdf

KA'Ū COMMUNITY MEETING PROTECTING KIOLOKA'A & MANĀKA'A

Hosted by: Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Tuesday February 16, 2021
4:30-6:30 pm
Online Zoom Meeting

Register to participate at this link:

<https://tpl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0sc0GoqTMqG9KW8AzGEslpLvSD819y7G93>

The Ka'ū community has been working for years to preserve its beloved 80 mile coast. Ala Kahakai Trail Association has partnered with The Trust for Public Land, descendants, and community organizations to protect Kioloka'a and Manāka'a. Both of these coastal properties are at serious risk of subdivision and development.

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For questions or more information please contact Keoni Fox fox@alakahakaitrail.org

www.alakahakaitrail.org



Dennis Hart, President
Alan Brown, VP
Kaleo Paik, Secretary
Ray Broggini, Treasurer
Keoni Fox
Linda Gallano
Ethan Souza
Kahealani Wright

Ala Kahakai Trail Association

P.O Box 2338

Kamuela, HI 96743

March 30, 2021

Sent via email

Legacy Land Conservation Commission, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813
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Re: Agenda Item 2, Review and Reconsider Commission Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Award (possible Action Item): Ala Kahakai Trail Association, \$1,475,000, for the acquisition of approximately 1,841.3 acres at Ka'ū, Hawai'i (Kiolaka'a), Tax Map Key Numbers (3) 9-4-001:008, :009, :016, :017, and :023

Aloha Chair Haase and Members of the Legacy Land Commission,

The Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) strongly supports the Legacy Land Conservation Commission recommendations for grant awards for FY2021. A registered non-profit established in 2008, 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. Congress added the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail to the National Trails System in 2000 for the preservation, protection and interpretation of traditional Native Hawaiian culture and natural resources. Today, the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail is a 175-mile corridor and trail network of cultural and historical significance. It traverses through hundreds of ancient Hawaiian settlement sites and over 200 ahupua'a extending from 'Upolu Point on the north tip of Hawai'i Island down the west coast of the island around Ka Lae (South Point) to the east boundary of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. We are a Native Hawaiian Organization and our board is comprised of mostly descendants with ancestral ties to geographic sections of the trail. Our goal is to connect our communities with the trail through preservation and community-based management. I serve as a volunteer board member representing the Ka'ū District.

For many years, the Ka'ū community has advocated for the protection of the entire 80 miles of

coastline. To advance this vision, ATA has been working to protect a nearly 10,000 acre contiguous landscape connected by over nine continuous miles of the ancient trail. Kiolaka'a which includes the east side of Ka'alu'alu Bay, was ranked #2 by the County of Hawaii Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission (PONC) in 2020. The adjacent State lands to the east include Wai'ohinu with the ancient village of Kamilo, a part of the Ka'u Forest Reserve. Further east is Waikapuna which has been conserved with County and State funds, Manāka'a Fishing Village which was ranked #1 by PONC in 2019, and Kāwala which will be kept in agriculture and preservation through a conservation easement. Further east is Kaunāmano which was nominated for preservation through the County and was ranked #1 by the State Legacy Land Commission for FY 2020. These efforts will complement other successfully protected lands at Honu'apo, Kāwā, Kamehame, and Kahuku. Our goal is to work together with community stakeholders towards collaborative landscape protection of the Ka'u coastline. The trail provides this connectivity.

Many Ka'u families have a deep ancestral connection to these lands. Over the years, these lands were leased and sold to the plantation. With the closure of Ka'u Agribusiness at the turn of the century, many of these coastal lands below the highway were sold to real estate developers and land speculators. Soon after, applications were submitted to the County Planning Department for large luxury style subdivisions.

For the last twenty years, my family has advocated for the protection of family burials and cultural sites along the Ka'u coastline. In July 2009, SHPD granted an exception to the developer of the Kiolaka'a property for a full archaeological inventory survey of the property prior to subdivision due to "economic hardship." Only a survey of the planned roadway corridor was required. In April 2010, the developer received a variance from County roadway and water requirements as part of its 22 -lot subdivision. According to the approval letter, the variance would allow for the subdivision to be created without providing a water supply system to meet the minimum requirements of the Department of Water Supply and constructing minimum dedicable and nondedicable roadway improvements meeting with the requirements of the Department of Public Works. If we are unable to raise the funds to preserve this property, it will be subdivided and developed. In addition to the extensive trail network and multiple lava tube cave systems used for habitation, water collection and defense, the property includes a freshwater spring, anchialine ponds, top tier coastal plant habitat and a significant dryland forest remnant with rare trees. We intend to work with the community to manage these natural resources by partnering with local environmental organizations who are already providing resource protection in the area such as The Nature Conservancy and Hawaii Wildlife Fund.

ATA has committed in our public funding applications to developing a Community Management Plan for Kiolaka'a within 18 months of gaining ownership, if the conservation acquisition is successful. ATA sincerely welcomes everyone's participation in the Community Management planning process which will likely be facilitated by a planning consultant hired by the County. For the Waikapuna management plan, the County is currently in the process of hiring a consultant. We expect the planning consultation to commence within the next couple of

months. In regards to public access requests, ATA has respected all requests for vehicular access to the beach at Waikapuna. We are unable to track pedestrian access via the coastal trails at this time. However, since acquiring the property a little over a year ago, we have received and accommodated approximately fifty requests for vehicular access. As part of our goals, we plan to create and initiate a community stewardship and educational program once the community management plan is completed and pandemic safety restrictions are lifted.

Protection of the Ka'ū coastline has been a long-standing goal of the community and Kiolaka'a is an integral part of that collaborative landscape. We value our relationship with all Ka'ū stewards and stakeholders as collaborative community partnerships are vital to achieving landscape level protection. We will all need to work together and put the needs of the land first in order to be successful.

For my family, the threat of development is very real. These conservation purchases are a last resort to save these lands from subdivision and development which would disturb iwi kūpuna, compromise hundreds of cultural sites, and result in private gated communities where public access is restricted.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Keoni Fox
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