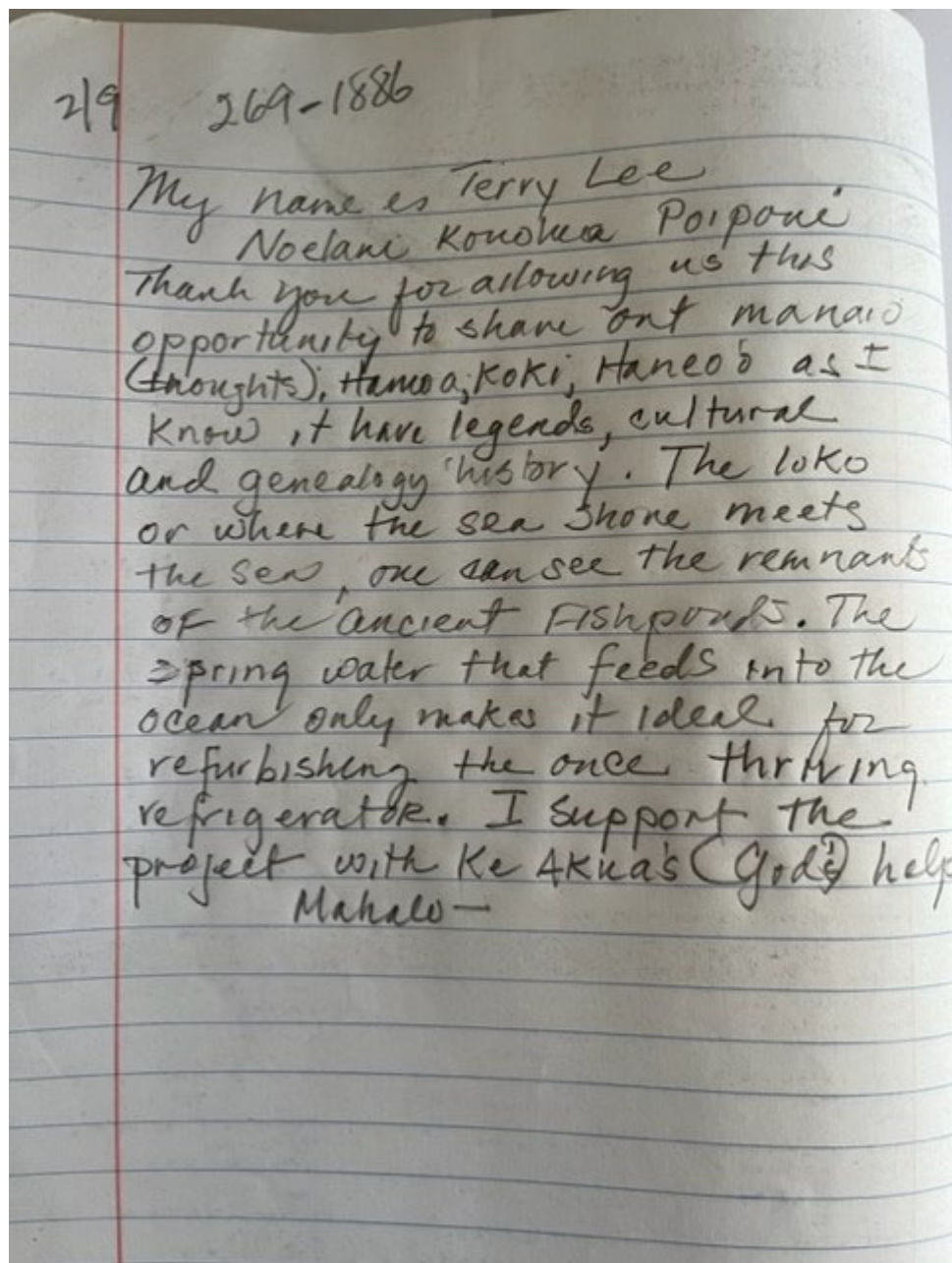


[EXTERNAL] Testimony from Teri Lee konohia poipuni of hana for Ua Mau ke ea

Thu 2/9/2023 10:51 AM

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



Sent from my iPhone

Regular Meeting of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Thursday, February 9th, 2023

Written Testimony by Vance Kaleohano Farrant
Regarding Item 2.B. (Applicant: Ho'okua'aina)
Note: I will also provide spoken testimony in-person.

I strongly urge the Commission to fund Item 2.B. regarding Ho'okua'aina's application for funds to purchase lands in Pālāwai, Kailua, O'ahu.

Part of my mom's family goes back more than five generations in Kailua, including the Maunawili area specifically. Until a short time ago, my grandpa's family had a farm right near where Ho'okua'aina works today, and while I grew up in Paumalū on the north shore, we always come to Tūtū's house in Kailua every holiday.

Since 2020, I have researched with Ho'okua'aina to understand and communicate the holistic value of their work. Their restoration of lo'i kalo (wetland taro agriculture) creates habitat for native waterbirds, among other valuable ecological functions. However, my expertise and research can attest even more strongly to the immense social value generated by their work. In my 41 interviews conducted with staff, interns, and other community members who have spent time with Ho'okua'aina, the majority of people made clear that Ho'okua'aina has played a transformative role in their lives by providing a safe and healthy environment for them to form deep relationships with the land and community. Here are a few examples of quotes:

"My whole life course totally changed because of Ho'okua'aina."
~21 year-old, former staff member

"Kapalai changed how I carried myself and how I treated others. I became more humble, determined, appreciative, and down to earth." ~19 year-old, former intern

"They [the volunteers] all said that they felt so much better after, like they got cleansed from the inside out. I feel that when I eat the poi, too." ~77 year-old, poi customer

From youth who never finished high school to those attending prestigious colleges, from children to elders, from locals to visitors, a wide variety of people told me that Ho'okua'aina has shifted their future plans towards a greater emphasis on caring for community and environment:

“I plan to continue cultivating ‘āina wherever I go, and hopefully, I will have my own ‘āina one day where I can produce food and create thriving ‘āina.”

~23 year-old, former staff member

“I want to do this work for the rest of my life. I want to bring Ho‘okua‘āina to Kaua‘i and offer a similar space with a family-based structure and a mission of growing food and building community.” ~21 year-old, former staff member

Through the people they inspire, Ho‘okua‘āina contributes to exponential growth in the number of people stewarding our social-ecological systems in Hawai‘i. Ho‘okua‘āina’s expansion to Pālāwai promises to substantially increase our local food sovereignty. However, I am most excited to see the tremendous social impact that this expansion will have, even beyond the shores of Hawai‘i, where people will be inspired by Ho‘okua‘āina’s transformative model of stewardship.

Ho‘okua‘āina’s work honors the ancestors of Kapalai, Pālāwai, and the surrounding area, including my own kūpuna. I am humbled to share stories of this region and its caretakers today.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Vance Kaleohano Farrant

B.S. Earth Systems, Stanford University, 2021

M.E.M. Natural Resources and Environmental Management, UH Mānoa, 2023

Lifelong resident of Paumalū (North Shore, O‘ahu)

Multi-generational descendant of Kailua, O‘ahu

Kanaka ‘Ōiwi (Native Hawaiian)

Testimony for Ho‘okua‘aina at the Legacy Land and Conservation Commission - Meeting 80
February 9, 2023 - To be read in person

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Mark Kunimune. I was raised in Kailua and currently reside there. My family lived in Pohakupu, so Kawainui and Maunawili were my playgrounds. I have fond memories riding my bike through the marsh and up the valley — fishing for tilapia, moss sliding, hiking, and just being adventurous. I currently serve on the board of directors of Ho‘okua‘aina.

Kailua was a thriving ahupua‘a pre-contact. There was a perfect marriage between the kai and wai. The fresh water filtered through the Ko‘olaus, met with the ocean, and created the perfect environment to feed the people of the surrounding areas. Kawainui was an abundant 400 acre fish pond and Maunawili a lush valley of lo‘i and other crops. The Hawaiians were experts at harmonizing with the ‘aina, utilizing the resources in their natural state and flow.

Our modern world has moved away from harmonizing with mother nature. Ho‘okua‘aina is a living example of a modern organization that is bringing us back to realign with our natural resources. To take a title from a Ted-x talk from a few years back, they are “Looking back to move forward”.

Not only is Ho‘okua‘aina a shining example of appropriate and effective agricultural resource management, they also exist to help people grow, especially Native Hawaiians. I have worked side by side with several of the young adults in the lo‘i doing back breaking work and sharing stories. I learned that these future leaders of Hawai‘i thrive in the lo‘i like the kalo planted there. Many of them work at Ho‘okua‘aina while attending college studying to be lawyers, doctors, business professionals, and teachers. They want to make sure the essence of their foundation consists of what the lo‘i can teach them. I am always impressed with how young they are, yet so wise in their thinking. They are living examples of “looking back to move forward”.

I have another tie to Ho‘okua‘aina. I taught paramedics at KCC for 11 years. I would bring my students, as well as their field instructors, to work in the lo‘i. Over the years, we found that the lo‘i is also a place of healing, especially for our first responders.

As paramedics, they are exposed to not only physical dangers, but were also at risk to extreme emotional and psychological threats. Personal Protective Equipment and decontamination can reduce the physical risks. However, the prolonged exposure to the emotional and mental risks are rarely addressed.

As a la‘au lapa‘au practitioner taught us early on, the lepo (mud) is the perfect place to “cleanse” one’s self from the negative vibe that is in the air on an emergency scene. The ‘aina not only absorbs it, but also replenishes folks with a positive vibe.

We have used, with success, the lepo at Ho‘okua‘aina on occasion following a catastrophic emergency to help “decontaminate” paramedics from the toxic vibe they absorbed while on scene.

The expansion of additional land will help Ho‘okua‘aina provide these same experiences to a broader population. The essence of aloha at Kapalai will have the space to grow. The ‘aina of Maunawili will be able to be utilized as it once did in the pre-contact years.

O‘ahu is the most densely populated island. However, in spite of the many people, we still have lands like Maunawili that are available to be used as they once were. We can still work on being more self-sustained and not so reliant on the outside for our food supply. If we can learn to grow food on O‘ahu, doing so on the neighbor islands will easily fall into place.

‘Aina can, once again, play an integral role in keeping our bodies, minds, and spirits healthy.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to testify.

Me ka pono
Mark Kunimune

February 8, 2023

TO: Chairperson Haase, Vice-Chairperson Sinton, and members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission

FR: Tara Flynn, Board Member, Ho'okua'āina

RE: Written and In-Person Testimony in support of allocating \$2.9 million from the Land Conservation Fund to Ho'okua'āina toward completion of the purchase of 116.49 acres at Pālāwai, Kailua, O'ahu.

Aloha Legacy Land Conservation Commissioners,

Mahalo for the opportunity to give testimony in support of allocating \$2.9 million from the Land Conservation Fund to Ho'okua'āina toward completion of the purchase of 116.49 acres at Pālāwai, Kailua, O'ahu.

Having been involved with Ho'okua'āina in various ways since its inception, and knowing the Wilhelm 'Ohana through the years since their dream of offering an 'āina-based center for food production and community connection, I can assure that Pālāwai lands under their stewardship will provide maximum benefit to the public.

I have witnessed the steadfast work ethic, partnering with community, effective planning and development of the programs and staff through the years that has culminated in an incredible place of physical and spiritual nourishment to the land and its people. The stories of transformed lives through the cultivation of kalo is endless and inspirational.

Ho'okua'āina's proven ability to manage these resources already exists and should be scaled and expanded to Pālāwai. This will ensure its protection against subdivision and development, protection of its many cultural and historic sites, protection of its watershed, streams and native habitat, and will provide food security through agricultural production and community education.

They are Kua'āina, the backbone strengthening the well-being of the community, and are Ho'okua'āina, cultivating community based stewardship that will last for generations to come. It is my honor to serve such an organization and work with the greater community in this effort.

Mahalo piha for your time and consideration on this recommendation,

Tara Flynn

Ho'okua'āina Board Member

Community Member

Part-Hawaiian

From: [Danielle Espiritu](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony, Item 2B. Ho'okua'aina. Pālāwai / Fee Title
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023 1:39:35 AM

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Danielle Espiritu, and I am writing in strong support of Ho'okua'aina's application related to lands at Pālāwai in Kailua, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu.

As a supporter, volunteer, and former staff of Ho'okua'aina, I can attest to their integrity as an organization and their ability to create a gathering space for community through the cultivation of 'ai (food, kalo). Over the last eleven years, I have personally seen the healing and restoration of 'aina, individuals, and families at Kapalai, the land Ho'okua'aina has restored and is caring for. Once used as a dump site and overgrown with hau and California grass, Kapalai is now a thriving lo'i kalo and farm space, with Ho'okua'aina as one of the largest organic kalo producers on the island. They have demonstrated not just their ability to steward and restore 'aina, but their ability to create and manage programs that ultimately inspire the community to step into the kuleana (privilege and responsibility) of being stewards ourselves.

I, personally, am a product of this work. I began as a volunteer over a decade ago. Kapalai was the first lo'i kalo I had consistently helped to restore and the process was both deeply healing and transformative. The community that Ho'okua'aina cultivated became a safe place for me to grow in my identity as a Kanaka (Native Hawaiian) and to learn about and practice culture. It taught me as an educator to value 'aina and culture-based educational opportunities for students that went beyond the four walls of a classroom. Today, I am a part of similar restoration efforts in Kaluauo in the moku of 'Ewa, which speaks to the ripple effects of Ho'okua'aina's impact and its ability to influence communities far beyond the lands they currently steward. In addition, I have seen the transformation of youth and young adults through Ho'okua'aina's mentorship and education programs, and I can attest to their impact on individuals, teachers, and schools. As a result, I am confident that access to the lands at Pālāwai would allow Ho'okua'aina to expand these programs and implement them on a larger scale.

Finally, I would like to remind us all that we on O'ahu are currently in a water crisis. The sole source aquifer on this island has been poisoned, and any additional development will add greater stress to an already taxed, limited resource. We cannot afford to develop any more agricultural lands. We as a pae'aina (archipelago) still import nearly all of the food we consume. There is a dire need to return to practices that are regenerative and life-giving. How much more significant than doing so at Pālāwai, one of the primary areas of kalo cultivation in ancient times?

Ho'okua'aina's proposed implementation of a Konohiki Agriculture Stewardship system would be invaluable. Not only would it offer fresh, organic, locally grown produce to those in Ko'olaupoko and the greater O'ahu, but it would offer a potential model for land stewardship, food production, community building, and restoration that we as a pae'aina desperately need.

Should Ho'okua'aina be allowed to steward the lands of Pālāwai, I am confident that the benefits to youth, individuals, families, native species, community health, and the economy

would be phenomenal. Such an investment could have ripple effects across our island for generations.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration. I humbly ask for your support.

Ke aloha,

Danielle Espiritu

--

Danielle Espiritu

Ua ola loko i ke aloha. #2836

Love is imperative to one's mental and physical welfare.

From: [Mac Meuldijk](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Kamealoha Kuleana: Legacy Land Conservation Program
Date: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:30:00 AM

Aloha Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Mac (Michaela) Meuldijk, I am from Hanalei and Wailua, and I am a student at Island School. I am in full support of adding the 'āina of Kamealoha in Hā'ena to the Legacy Lands Conservation Program (LLCP) and protecting this kuleana in perpetuity through a conservation easement.

When I visited Kamealoha Kuleana, I learned that the Lineal family (the Wanns) are more than capable of managing and stewarding the conservation effort to restore this land. I know with Lei Wann's guidance and support with the LLCP, the 'āina of Kamealoha in Hā'ena would be in great hands. Lei is a dedicated person to her ohana and 'āina. The North Shore of Kauai has had a huge impact on my life, and I would hate to see it fall into the trap of money. Please understand that your decision has the power to preserve ancient and sacred land. It would do well for all of us.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Mac Meuldijk

This email has been sent from a student at Island School.

From: [Piko Vaughan](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kamealoha Kuleana
Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 9:09:39 AM

Aloha! My name is Piko Vaughan and I am in the 9th grade at Island School. On behalf of my fellow friends and ohana, we would like to support the Wann ohana in keeping their kuleana land. I love Kamealoha because for about the past three years, I was able to camp there. Kamealoha provides a welcoming place, a place to learn, and somewhere that should be preserved forever. One of my greatest memories there was catching prawns and crayfish in the auwai. Mahalo!

Sincerely,
Piko Vaughan

Will NOT be Speaking In Person or on Zoom

This email has been sent from a student at Island School.

Aloha Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Sam DeBonet, I am from Hā'ena Kauai, and I am a student at Island School. I am in full support of adding the 'āina of Kamealoha in Hā'ena to the Legacy Lands Conservation Program (LLCP) and protecting this kuleana in perpetuity through a conservation easement.

When I visited Kamealoha Kuleana, I learned that The Lineal family (Wanns) are more than capable of managing and steward the conservation effort to restore this land. Kamealoha is one of less than 5 kuleana left in Ha'ena. It is the last kuleana, this northwest of the pae 'aina. The Wanns have a special connection to the land and want to restore it for the community and preserve it for generations to come. With the Wann 'ohana leading malama efforts on the land, it will benefit the community at large. As a surfer, I see that the property could potentially serve as a public/private beach access for the families who contribute to the stewardship of this land. Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

From:
Mason Chock
Kupu A'e Leadership Development
121 Lihau St. Kapaa, HI 96746

To: 8-Feb-23

To:
Trust for Public Land
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1512
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Letter of Support for State Legacy Land Conservation Funding and County Open Space Funding to Protect and Acquire a Conservation Easement over Kamealoha Kuleana, Limahuli, Hā'ena, Kaua'i

I am writing to express my strong support of Kīpuka Kuleana's and Trust for Public Land's efforts to protect the kuleana land known as Kamealoha in Limahuli, Hā'ena, Kaua'i through a conservation easement acquisition.

Kamealoha is one of the last kuleana parcels owned by lineal descendants of Limahuli, Hā'ena. It is the second-most biodiverse valley in Hawai'i, and home to native 'o'opu, 'ōpae, hihiwai, and an intact marine ecosystem where Hā'ena residents continue fishing and limu gathering. Kamealoha consists of an agricultural terrace system, archaeological sites, burials, and fruit trees. It is also famed for its affiliation with the customary practice of firebranding or 'ōahi which was uniquely practiced at the cliff Makana.

Protecting Kamealoha would fulfill the Hā'ena community's vision of community-based stewardship over their natural and cultural resources. Kīpuka Kuleana, a Native Hawaiian Kaua'i nonprofit will hold the conservation easement over Kamealoha. Kīpuka Kuleana's mission is to perpetuate kuleana to place through the protection of cultural landscape and family lands in Kaua'i. Kīpuka Kuleana will partner with lineal descendants and the Hā'ena community to steward and protect Kamealoha in perpetuity.

It is not often we hear of a perfect land acquisition opportunity where credible kamaaina stewards, a non profit support system, community vision and neighbors come together for a shared endeavor. So when the stars align perfectly to the purpose of the Legacy Land Conservation Fund, we must respond and do everything in our power to support such a request and help to protect the culture, history and lineage of our ancestors.

Kamealoha is a critical and special piece of the puzzle ensuring community-led protection and stewardship of this region from ridge to reef. I wholeheartedly support this effort and encourage the State Legacy Land Conservation Commission and Natural Resources Preservation Commission to recommend funding to protect Kamealoha.

Mahalo nui loa,



Mason Chock
President,
Kaua'i Team Challenge LLC
DBA Kupu A'e Leadership Development



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HWY., SUITE 200
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

February 8, 2023

Chair Dawn Chang, BLNR
Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Legacy Land Conservation Commission
State of Hawai'i DLNR
1151 Punchbowl Street Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: ITEM 2.D. Kipuka Kuleana – Kamealoha Kuleana/conservation easement
Helele'a, Kaua'i**

Aloha mai e Chairperson Chang and LLCC,

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs' Mana i Maui Ola Strategic Plan recognizes the connection that Native Hawaiians have to the 'āina as a foundational strength. To our kūpuna, the land was life. Imbued with mana, our 'āina provides everything we need to survive. On an intimate level, Kānaka Maoli are connected to the land by the generations of kūpuna who lived on the land before us and whose iwi rest here. Thus, the emotional ties we have to our families, and the aloha we have for them, extends to the land that feeds us.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is partnering with descendants—the Wann and Akana 'ohana — and the nonprofit, Kīpuka Kuleana to protect **Kamealoha Kuleana** through a Conservation Easement and perpetuate its historic legacy as a stronghold of Hā'ena traditions, kalo farming, and the practice of 'ōahi.

Kamealoha Kuleana ("the place of love and gratitude") is one of five remaining kuleana lands in Hā'ena, Kaua'i and the last kuleana, this northwest of the pae 'āina. This kuleana land is still held and cared for by the lineal descendants of the original Māhele claimants.

Kamealoha Kuleana contains historical and intact lo'i kalo (wetland taro) likely dated between 400-1200 years old. These lo'i terraces span the property from mauka to makai, a stream and spring fed 'auwai that runs along its border, iwi kūpuna (ancestral

remains), and was the home of Alexander Hailama, an ‘ōahi (firebrand) practitioner and kumu who taught and prepared for ‘ōahi ceremonies at Kamealoha. Hailama and La‘a were two of the last practitioners to do ‘ōahi in 1924. It is important to know that there are at least two known burials on the property.

The Lineal family, the Wann’s having been caring for this land alongside other lineal descendants for centuries and are more than capable of managing and stewarding the conservation effort to restore this land. Their ancestors were born on the South west boundary of the property. Their family is integral in the caring of the Kamealoha kuleana parcel which is part of the larger lo‘i and ahupua‘a system of Limahuli. Today, it serves as an educational site for school and educational groups.

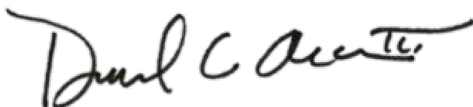
Moreover the Wann ‘ohana has been vital stewards and advocates for the Hui Maka‘ainana o Makana - Lo‘i Kalo Stewardship located in the ahupua‘a of Haena in the moku of Halele‘a, Kaua‘i. The Wann ‘ohana was a lead family in the organization of the first Community Based Fishing Area (CBFA) in Hawai‘i. As a lead member of Hui Maka‘ainana o Makana, the Wann family was supported by and worked in partnership with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for the success of the CBFA for Hui Maka‘ainana o Makana.

On Kaua‘i, long-time families are losing connections to ancestral lands due to escalating land values, rising taxes, restricted access, and development pressure. Surrounded by gated luxury mansions, this ‘āina is a powerful assertion of Hawaiian values, lifeways and commitment to upholding kuleana against all odds. Protecting Kamealoha Kuleana will ensure that it can serve as a kīpuka (place of community caretaking and cultural restoration) for future generations.

As the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau Trustee, I fully support the descendants—the Wann and Akana ‘ohana and their partnership with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the nonprofit Kīpuka Kuleana to protect Kamealoha Kuleana through stewardship and a Conservation Easement and perpetuate its historic legacy as a stronghold of Hā‘ena traditions, kalo farming, and the practice of ‘ōahi.

Mahalo nui for your time and support to perpetuate kuleana, ahupua‘a-based natural resource management and connection to place through protection of cultural landscapes and family lands.

‘O wau iho nō,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Ahuna". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dan Ahuna
Trustee – Kaua‘i & Ni‘ihau, Office of Hawaiian Affairs

From: [Lyla Nakayama](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Kamealoha Kuleana: Legacy Land Conservation Program
Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 12:38:18 PM

Aloha Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Lyla Nakayama, I am from Kilauea, Kauai, and I am a student at Island School. I am in full support of adding the 'āina of Kamealoha in Hā'ena to the Legacy Lands Conservation Program (LLCP) and protecting this kuleana in perpetuity through a conservation easement.

When I visited Kamealoha Kuleana, I learned that there are at least two known burials on the property. Protecting this kuleana not only protects cultural heritage but also the archaeological significance of the site. Not only are there ancient burial sites but the entirety of it is a part of a bigger lo'i and ahupua'a system of Limahuli. Protecting this kuleana will again not only protect the cultural heritage and the archaeological sites, but it will also extend the agricultural lands. Being one of the last of 5 kuleanas left in Ha'ena I believe that Kamealoha would benefit greatly from the LLCP given all of Lei Wann's hard work and dedication to the 'āina.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

This email has been sent from a student at Island School.

From: [PAMELA BURRELL](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kamealoha Kuleana, Haena Kaua'i
Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 12:50:47 PM

Dear members of the State Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing to you in strong support of continuing the funding for this kuleana land project. Watching this project take hold and come in to fruition over recent the years, one can feel the love and gratitude of place and traditions in full view. It is truly heartwarming. As tourists walk thru the loi on the way to Ke'e beach..I'm sure a deeper respect and sense of place is felt by all.

In the past, I have danced at the sacred hula platform and one can feel the power of that area. It must be preserved. I also witnessed, a few years back, the lighting of the fires for the 'oahi ceremony. What a treat that was after so many years hearing of that ceremony. The 'oahi fires were not totally successful but it was a great attempt to bring back tradition and honor our home culture.

I know there must be many requests for funding across the island chain, but please continue honoring this restoration. It is filled with aloha aina.
Come visit yourselves. You will feel the mana.

Warm regards from a mainland transplant that was blessed to live in Limahuli Valley 50 years ago while Juliet Wickman still owned the land. I hold this place still dear to my heart.

Pamela Burrell
Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

From: [Lynn Moffitt Wilson](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kamealoha Kuleana
Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 2:47:56 PM

This is clearly such a remarkable place for us to honor and respect and so very deserving of the funding required to maintain this historical treasure.

One of the few left.

I urge you to consider how very deserving this special kuliana land is to preserve the heritage for our children and all future generations to come.

I have watvched over the years the care and grooming that has gone in to returning this property to it's former magnificience and it would be so very negligent and regretable if we did not support this valiant work with our funds.

Most sincerely,
Lynn Moffitt Wilson



KANUIKAPONO

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

February 8, 2023

Chair Dawn Chang, BLNR
Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Legacy Land Conservation Commission
State of Hawai'i DLNR
1151 Punchbowl Street Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for Kamealaoha Kuleana

Aloha mai e Chairperson and Members of the Board of Land & Natural Resources,

Kanuikapono is a Hawaiian-focused public charter school located in Anahola, Kaua'i that serves more than 200 students in grades K-12. The school's vision guides a high quality educational program rooted in 'Āina and Culture.

'Āina-based education is a key component to our educational program. As defined by a collective of Hawaiian-Focused Charter Schools, 'Āina-based learning experiences allow learners to create authentic, reciprocal relationships with the land, people, and resources of a specific community. This becomes an integral part of the learner's identity and a catalyst for a personal commitment to the health and well-being of that community. It is situated in learning that honors the past, present and future in order to ensure the sustainability and productivity of all forms of life. More specifically, 'āina-based education embodies the wisdom of the 'ōlelo no'eau: 'O ka hā o ka 'āina, ke ola o ka po'e (The health of the land is the health of the people).

Kamealoha Kuleana ("the place of love and gratitude") is one of five remaining kuleana lands in Hā'ena, Kaua'i and the last kuleana, this northwest of the pae 'aina. This kuleana land is still held and cared for by the lineal descendants of the original Māhele claimants.

Kamealoha Kuleana contains historical and intact lo'i kalo (wetland taro) likely dated between 400-1200 years old. These lo'i terraces span the property from mauka to makai, a stream and spring fed 'auwai that runs along its border, iwi kūpuna (ancestral remains), and was the home of Alexander Hailama, an 'ōahi (firebrand) practitioner and kumu who taught and prepared for 'ōahi



ceremonies at Kamealoha. Hailama and La‘a were two of the last practitioners to do ‘oahi in 1924. It is important to know that there are at least two known burials on the property.

The Kamealoha Kuleana land has been a site that our kula visits as a place for ‘āina-based learning. Our school partners with organizations such as Hui Maka‘ainana o Makana, Limahuli Gardens and Na Maka Onaona who utilize sites such as the Kamealoha Kuleana parcel for our secondary grade classes focusing on loko i‘a (Hawaiian fishponds) and lo‘i kalo (taro cultivation). So far, our students have engaged in lessons such as Mo‘olelo Mapping (place-based learning through history, art, and music), cultural site maintenance and restoration and Invasive Species & Predator Management.

Kanuikapono Public Charter Schools supports Kamealoha Kuleana and kuleana lands to maintain and further develop our education-based partnerships which are extremely vital and impactful to ‘āina-based learning. Kamealoha Kuleana offers an incredibly unique learning environment in the ahupua‘a of Hā‘ena, and moku of Halelea‘a.

Mahalo nui for your time and support to Native Hawaiian education and ‘āina-based learning programs. Please contact me at kanoe.ahuna@kanuikapono.k12.hi.us, should you have any questions.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Kanoe Ahuna'.

Kanoe Ahuna, Ph.D.
Executive Director/Principal



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 6, 2023

Trust for Public Land
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1512
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Letter of Support for State Legacy Land Conservation Funding and County Open Space Funding to Protect and Acquire a Conservation Easement over Kamealoha Kuleana, Limahuli, Hā'ena, Kaua'i

I'm writing to express my strong support of Kīpuka Kuleana's and Trust for Public Land's efforts to protect the kuleana land known as Kamealoha in Limahuli, Hā'ena, Kaua'i through a conservation easement acquisition.

Kamealoha is one of the last kuleana parcels owned by lineal descendants in Limahuli, Hā'ena. Limahuli is the second-most biodiverse valley in Hawai'i, home to all five native 'o'opu, both native 'ōpae, hihiwai, and an intact marine ecosystem where Hā'ena residents continue fishing and limu gathering. Kamealoha consists of an agricultural terrace system, archaeological sites, burials, and fruit trees. Kamealoha is also famed for its affiliation with the customary practice of 'ōahi (display of firebrands), which was practiced at the cliff Makana.

Protecting Kamealoha would fulfill the Hā'ena community's vision of community-based stewardship over their natural and cultural resources. Kīpuka Kuleana, a Native Hawaiian Kaua'i nonprofit will hold the conservation easement over Kamealoha. Kīpuka Kuleana's mission is to perpetuate kuleana to place through the protection of cultural landscape and family lands in Kaua'i. Kīpuka Kuleana will partner with lineal descendants and the Hā'ena community to steward and protect Kamealoha in perpetuity.

Protecting Kamealoha will help Hā'ena mitigate and adapt to climate change. Farming kalo and other crops supports local food security. Agroforestry helps sequester carbon and reduce heat. Kalo farming facilitates ground water re-charge, functions as a flood retention basin, and provides sediment filtration preventing run off into our oceans and fisheries.

I've had the blessing of working on master plans for the National Tropical Botanical Gardens and Hā'ena State Park, which neighbor this property. Kamealoha is a critical and special piece of the puzzle ensuring community-led protection and stewardship of this region from ridge to reef. I wholeheartedly support this effort and encourage the State Legacy Land Conservation

Office of Representative Nadine K. Nakamura

15th District | Hanalei | Princeville | Kilauea | Anahola | Kapa'a | Wailua

Hawai'i State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Room 439 | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 | PH 808.586.8435

Commission and the Kaua'i County Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission to recommend funding to protect Kamealoha.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Nadine K. Nakamura". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nadine K. Nakamura
Representative, District 15
State of Hawai'i

Office of Representative Nadine K. Nakamura

15th District | Hanalei | Princeville | Kilauea | Anahola | Kapa'a | Wailua
Hawai'i State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Room 439 | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 | PH 808.586.8435

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs' Mana i Maui Ola Strategic Plan recognizes the connection that Native Hawaiians have to the 'āina as a foundational strength. To our kūpuna, the land was life. Imbued with mana, our 'āina provides everything we need to survive. On an intimate level, Kānaka Maoli are connected to the land by the generations of kūpuna who lived on the land before us and whose iwi rest here. Thus, the emotional ties we have to our families, and the aloha we have for them, extends to the land that feeds us.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is partnering with descendants—the Wann and Akana 'ohana — and the nonprofit, Kīpuka Kuleana to protect **Kamealoha Kuleana** through a Conservation Easement and perpetuate its historic legacy as a stronghold of Hā'ena traditions, kalo farming, and the practice of 'ōahi.

Kamealoha Kuleana ("the place of love and gratitude") is one of five remaining kuleana lands in Hā'ena, Kaua'i and the last kuleana, this northwest of the pae 'aina. This kuleana land is still held and cared for by the lineal descendants of the original Māhele claimants.

Kamealoha Kuleana contains historical and intact lo'i kalo (wetland taro) likely dated between 400-1200 years old. These lo'i terraces span the property from mauka to makai, a stream and spring fed 'auwai that runs along its border, iwi kūpuna (ancestral remains), and was the home of Alexander Hailama, an 'ōahi (firebrand) practitioner and kumu who taught and prepared for 'ōahi ceremonies at Kamealoha. Hailama and La'a were two of the last practitioners to do 'oahi in 1924. It is important to know that there are at least two known burials on the property.

The Lineal family, the Wann's having been caring for this land alongside other lineal descendants for centuries and are more than capable of managing and stewarding the conservation effort to restore this land. Their ancestors were born on the South west boundary of the property. Their family is integral in the caring of the Kamealoha kuleana parcel which is part of the larger lo'i and ahupua'a system of Limahuli. Today, it serves as an educational site for school and educational groups.

Moreover the Wann 'ohana has been vital stewards and advocates for the Hui Maka'ainana o Makana - Lo'i Kalo Stewardship located in the ahupua'a of Haena in the moku of Halele'a, Kaua'i. The Wann 'ohana was a lead family in the organization of the first Community Based Fishing Area (CBFA) in Hawai'i. As a lead member of Hui Maka'ainana o Makana, the Wann family was supported by and worked in partnership with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for the success of the CBFA for Hui Maka'ainana o Makana.

On Kaua'i, long-time families are losing connections to ancestral lands due to escalating land values, rising taxes, restricted access, and development pressure. Surrounded by gated luxury mansions, this 'āina is a powerful assertion of Hawaiian values, lifeways and commitment to upholding kuleana against all odds. Protecting Kamealoha Kuleana will ensure that it can serve as a kīpuka (place of community caretaking and cultural restoration) for future generations.

As the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Kaua'i and Ni'ihau Trustee, I fully support the descendants—the Wann and Akana 'ohana and their partnership with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the nonprofit Kīpuka Kuleana to protect Kamealoha Kuleana through stewardship and a Conservation Easement and perpetuate its historic legacy as a stronghold of Hā'ena traditions, kalo farming, and the practice of 'ōahi.

Mahalo nui for your time and support to perpetuate kuleana, ahupua'a-based natural resource management and connection to place through protection of cultural landscapes and family lands.

Dan Ahuna,
Kaua'i & Ni'ihau Trustee, Office of Hawaiian Affairs

E Luna Ho‘omalua Haase, Hope Luna Sinto, me nā lālā o ka Papa Legacy Lands Conservation Commission.

Aloha nui nō kākou,

I am Devin Kamealoha Forrest, a kupu of Hā‘ena and I am in full support of adding the ‘āina of Kamealoha in Hā‘ena to the legacy lands.

It seems fitting that this meeting is occurring during ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i month as these Hā‘ena lands that are being contemplated on was once a place where my Great Grandmother Rachel Mahuiki, one of the last Native Hawaiian language speakers, would often frequent and utilize. And much like my Tūtū, these lands are also one of the last of its kind in Hā‘ena. This ‘āina is legacy lands as it is cared for by the legacy of the many generations of kūpuna that have passed on not only the ‘āina, but the mo‘olelo, practices, and kuleana that are associated with it.

“Ho‘okahi lā o ka malihini,” an proverbial saying that embodies the true meaning of aloha and our Hawaiian worldview, a stranger is but a stranger for a day then, they become part of the community. However, while this may have been true in ancient history, it is less so today. Most of the malihini that come to Hā‘ena do not wish to become part of the community and instead wish to transplant the worldview of the place they have come from; the big fence, keep out culture, into rural areas like Hā‘ena where community cohesion and an ‘ohana lifestyle are necessary for survival and harmonious coexistence.

The Wann ‘ohana that are this generations kahu of this ‘āina are the beacon and guiding light in this community. They are a reminder to those malihini that want to supplant Native Hawaiian culture and ideals of community inclusion and cooperation with exclusionary tactics and no trespassing rhetoric, that Native Hawaiian traditions and customs were here, are here, and will continue to be perpetuated for as long as Hawai‘i exists.

By making this ‘āina part of the legacy lands the Commission would not only be saving one of the last Native Hawaiian spaces in Hā‘ena, but they will also be fulfilling the duties of the State as contemplated in Article 12 section 7 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution. Preserving and protecting this ‘āina also protects the traditional and customary practices that are associated with it. This protection will also ensure that these traditional and customary practices are perpetuated and are not regulated or fenced out of existence by the incursion of foreign ideals.

Mahalo nui again for your time and deep contemplation.

Na‘u nō me ke aloha

Devin Kamealoha Forrest.

From: [William](#)
To: [Reyna Ramolete](#); thiswann@yahoo.com
Subject: [External] support for funding request
Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 11:09:52 AM

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 Rayna! I write this e-mail request to support the descendants of Kamealoha, and Kipuka Kuleana, in their request for funding to complete the purchase of their family's Kuleana parcel with the intent of long term protection. The family currently continues the Hawaiian Practice of Lo'i Kalo and Malama Aina. This Aina has a rich history of preparing for Oahi ceremonies as the physical layout of Ke Pali Ohai O Makana is critically important to the practice.

Many of Hawaii's important ceremonial lands are being disenfranchised from families and their desire to protect in perpetuity. This type of protection meets the criteria and mission of the Trust for Public Lands mission. Please give Kipuka Kuleana full consideration of their funding request. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 808-330-0376. Mahalo!

William J. Aila Jr. Former Chairman of both the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

2/7/23

Aloha, to whom it may concern,

Please support the Wann Ohana in the quest to preserve Kameloha as one of the last kuleana left in Ha'ena. They have and will continue to support our people via this space with necessary teachings to connect the past to grow our future. We need to preserve Kamealoha!

Mahalo for your Consideration,

Alexander Amarin

From: [Mauliola Cook](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of Kamealoha Kuleana
Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 5:49:11 PM

February 8, 2023

Kīlauea, Kaua‘i

To: The State Legacy Land Conservation Commission

Re: Testimony for funding to protect Kamealoha Kuleana

Aloha to the Commission

I am Maui Ola Cook. I have been a resident of the islands since 1978 and have lived on Kaua‘i since 1986. I lived with the Akana ‘ohana in Kalihiwai for 20 years, as the late Johnny Boy Akana was my life partner.

I am a Teaching Artist and have taught creative dance and ‘Ike Hawai‘i in schools throughout the state since 1986. Most of my teaching has been in North Kaua‘i at Hanalei and Kilauea public elementary schools, as well as at Kanuikapono Public Charter School in Anahola and Kawaikini Kula Kaiapuni in Puhi.

I am a passionate advocate for the protection of the Kamealoha Kuleana, the work of the Wann and Akana ‘ohana and the Kīpuka Kuleana.

Presley Wann has been a devoted cultural practitioner and has participated in an aloha ‘āina lifestyle for as long as I have known him. He and his ‘ohana have always treasured their ‘ohana ‘āina in Hā‘ena, spending every free moment they could living on the land and caring for it. Presley Wann, as president of the Hui Maka‘ainana O Makana, has worked and traveled tirelessly to advocate for the protection of the lo‘i kalo in Hā‘ena and to establish the Hā‘ena Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Rules. His work supported by the ‘ohana of Hā‘ena (the Hashimoto, Tai Hook, Chandler, Maka and many others) has helped to control the decimation of ocean resources that have sustained the ‘ohana of that wahi pana for generations. These Hā‘ena ‘ohana can be seen working every weekday and weekends on the beautifully tended lo‘i kalo of Hā‘ena, producing food for their community and beyond.

The powerful books, Hā‘ena by the late Dr. Carlos Andrade and Kaiāulu by Dr. Mehana Blaich Vaughn, help us to understand the important legacy of

knowledge, cultural traditions and environmental sustainability that are imbedded in the hearts and minds of the ‘ohana of that area.

Lei Wann, the daughter of Presley Wann, continues her father’s ways of working with dedication and devotion to preserve and protect Hawai’i’s land waters and culture. She worked with plants for years at the Waipa foundation, was a superb classroom teacher at Kawaikini kula kaiaipuni and now continues Kawika Winter’s powerful legacy as head of the Limahuli Garden and Preserve.

The unmatched beauty of Hā’ena is part of what motivates the ‘ohana of that place to work so hard to care for and preserve their homeland. It is also a large part of what attracts millionaires to want to buy up the land, fence it off, plant any manner of alien plants and divert the water without awareness of the effects of their actions.

If you were to look at the statistics of how the land is currently being used, who owns it, what it costs now to own it and maintain the land taxes you would understand why it is so important to support local families to be able to maintain their ownership and stewardship of the lands they love so deeply.

I am honored to be able to express my most profound support of Kīpuka Kuleana’s efforts to protect the Kameaoha Kuleana.

I will be teaching school on Friday morning and so will not be able to provide oral testimony.

‘o wau no me ka ha’a

Mauli Ola Cook

(aka Christine Anne Cook)

PO 326 Kilauea, Kaua’i

Mauliola3@gmail.com

8086528173

[EXTERNAL] RE: Kamealoha Kuleana (Hā'ena, Kaua'i) Written Testimony

Puakea Mo'okini-Oliveira

Wed 2/8/2023 9:16 PM

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

Aloha. Please find my written testimony for Meeting 80 of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission Item 2.D

February 8, 2023

P. Puakealoha'ole Mo'okini-Oliveira

PO Box 731

Hanalei, HI

RE: Kamealoha (Hā'ena, Kaua'i)

To Esteemed Legacy Land Commissioners,

I am Puakea Mo'okini-Oliveira and I am submitting written testimony on behalf of Kamealoha Kuleana, one of very few of its kind: still held and tended by lineal descendants in Hā'ena, Halele'a, Kaua'i.

At this point, dear reader, you must be familiar with variations of meanings of kuleana as *responsibility*, *privilege*, *orright*. In today's landscape of rising seas and living costs, families, especially lineal descendants from un-developed areas, are being pushed and priced out. People separated from place is dangerous and creates the potential for severing relationships to and by 'āina – that which feeds. Kamealoha Kuleana lands have never been about families' ability to claim "ownership" to 'āina. Kuleana lands have always been about Hawaiian families having places to tend, be fed from, to be raised, to exist. And we all share in its aloha.

I know of Kamealoha through Lei and the Wann 'ohana – a family well-known as cultural practitioners and maka'āinana from Hā'ena. As a 'ōiwi stream researcher, it means a great deal to be able to access Limahuli estuary via Kamealoha, with permission from the Wann 'ohana. There, we can assess the conditions of Limahuli stream – the lifeblood of Limahuli valley and the lo'i of Kē'ē. Kamealoha is also a staging ground for surveys to understand the status of our native stream animals. In the cooling waters of Limahuli stream, 5/5 endemic gobies, 2/2 native shrimp, and a native freshwater snail reside. As maka'āinana, the Wann 'ohana take pride in tending to the intact lo'i terraces, where their ancestor, one of the last remaining 'ōahi (fire-branding) practitioners resided. After big flooding events, I've witnessed 'ohana making sure surrounding 'auwai (irrigation canal) were free from debris, ensuring the impact to the freshwater and nearshore ecosystems were minimal, if not obsolete.

Kamealoha Kuleana is not only about the Wann 'ohana, but the community of people it is helping to raise in 'āina. Kamealoha also has a front row seat to the Wann 'ohana's icebox. Their Tūtūs and their Tūtūs before them, watched the tides, currents, and surrounding skies for signs of when to go. These lessons live through the Wann's today. And those of us lucky enough to know them, have been fed from their connection to those reefs there. Kamealoha is where haumāna stop to rest before

heading down to the shoreline. Where families and friends gather to spend nights camping, and simply being in place. One night, we went with our headlamps, overturning small cobbles where the sea sipped the stream. Stone after stone we turned, until, "I think I found one!" Sure enough, in Lei's hands she carried a stone with a tiny (<3 mm) black and gold-flecked hīhīwai – one of Hawai'i's endemic neritid snails, making it's steady climb upstream.

Kamealoha's ecological, biological, and cultural importance is immeasurable because they are intertwined. This is what kuleana lands are about. Kamealoha and all it provides to the Wann 'ohana is then shared with the rest of Hā'ena and beyond. The Wann 'ohana have been raised by and in turn mirror all that Kamealoha is. Kamealoha teaches us about tending, being in place, and aloha. We must do the same for Kamealoha and 'ohana of Hā'ena now.

Me ka ha'aha'a a me ka 'oia'i'o,
Puakea Mo'okini-Oliveira

From: [mimi campbell](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Testimony for funding to protect Kamealoha Kuleana
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:37:36 AM

February 9, 2023

Kīlauea, Kauaʻi

To: The State Legacy Land Conservation
Comission

Re: Testimony for funding to protect
Kamealoha Kuleana

Aloha to the Comission

My name is, Mimi Demetra Campbell. I have been a resident of the islands since 2016. I currently work as an interior designer and offer assistance to our kupuna in need.

I am a passionate advocate for the protection of the Kamealoha Kuleana, the work of the Wann and Akana ʻohana and the Kīpuka Kuleana.

Presley Wann has been a devoted cultural practitioner and has participated in an aloha ʻāina lifestyle for as long as I have known him. He and his ʻohana have always treasured their ʻohana ʻāina in Hāʻena, spending every free moment they could living on the land and caring for it. As the president of the Hui Makaʻainana O Makana, Presley has worked and traveled tirelessly to advocate for the protection of the loʻi kalo in Hāʻena and to establish the Hāʻena Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Rules. His work, supported by the ʻohana of Hāʻena, (the Hashimoto, Tai

Hook, Chandler, Maka and many others) has helped to control the decimation of ocean resources that have sustained the 'ohana of that wahi pana for generations. These Hā'ena 'ohana can be seen working every weekday and weekends on the beautifully tended lo'i kalo of Hā'ena, producing food for their community and beyond.

The powerful books, Hā'ena by the late Dr. Carlos Andrade and Kaiāulu by Dr. Mehana Blaich Vaughn, help us to understand the important legacy of knowledge, cultural traditions and environmental sustainability that are imbedded in the hearts and minds of the 'ohana of that area.

Lei Wann, the daughter of Presley Wann, continues her father's ways of working with dedication and devotion to preserve and protect Hawai'i's land waters and culture.

The unmatched beauty of Hā'ena is part of what motivates the 'ohana of that place to work so hard to care for and preserve their homeland. It is also a large part of what attracts millionaires to want to buy up the land, fence it off, plant any manner of alien plants and divert the water without awareness of the effects of their actions.

If you were to look at the statistics of how the land is currently being used, who owns it, what it costs now to own it and maintain the land taxes you would understand why it is so important to support local families to be able to maintain their ownership and stewardship

of the lands they love so deeply.

I am honored to be able to express my
most profound support of Kīpuka
Kuleana's efforts to protect the Kameaoha
Kuleana.

‘o wau no me ka ha’a

Mimi Demetra Campbell

PO box 1161 Koloa, Kaua’i

Kauaidesigngroup[@gmail.com](mailto:kauaidesigngroup@gmail.com)

310 422 5507

From: [Kanana Kuhaulua](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kamealoha Kuleana Testimony
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023 6:42:39 AM
Attachments: [Kamealoha Testimony.pdf](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

Below and attached is my testimony for Kamealoha Kuleana. I would like to read my testimony via zoom if that is possible.

Mahalo a nui for your time and consideration,
Kanānāikahaku Kuhaulua

Dear Members of the State Legacy Land Conservation Commission:

‘O wau iho nō ‘o Kanānāikahaku Kuhaulua, a no Anahola, Kaua‘i mai au. My name is Kanānāikahaku Kuhaulua, and I am from Anahola, Ko‘olau here on Kaua‘i. I am a mother, daughter, granddaughter, educator, and contributing community member. I have three children, who are 19, 13 and 8, respectively. I have been blessed to know Leipuaahi Wann for the past fifteen years, and consider myself fortunate to know such a loving, hardworking, honest, and selfless individual, whose family contributes and reaches every moku (district) of this island. I have worked with Lei in different educational and community driven capacities, where she has poured out and shared her knowledge and love for ‘ohana (family), ‘āina (land) and most importantly keiki (children). For as long as I’ve known Lei, her focus has always been growing and connecting individuals to ‘āina, where ‘āina represents all sources that feed and sustain us physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Lei has always generously shared her ‘ohana’s resources, and in this case specifically, I’m speaking in regards to access to their Kamealoha Kuleana.

Lei and I first met in 2008 at Kawaikini Public Charter School’s inception, and through Kawaikini, Lei has both formally and informally taught all three of my children. Through Kawaikini, hundreds of haumāna (students) have been able to experience life as it may have been in olden Kaua‘i because Lei and her ‘ohana allowed students and families to camp and experience their kulāiwi (homeland) and ‘āina momona (abundant land) while learning about ahupua‘a (land divisions and watersheds), kilo (observations) and pilina (the importance of relationships). Kamealoha is not just a dear place to the Wann ‘ohana, but it is a place dear to many students and families from Kawaikini because as its name implies, it is a place, like its people, that lovingly embraces you, and if you don’t have family lands, or places to connect to, Kamealoha becomes that special place.

In addition to Kawaikini, I have worked with Lei at Kamehameha Schools Ho‘olauna Series, where Lei’s expertise and love for ‘āina was shared with hundreds of Native Hawaiian children over multiple summers. I’ve also worked as a kumu for Lei at Limahuli Garden’s Nā Laua‘e o Makana Series, which is a program that she specifically created to support the youth in the Hā‘ena community. Lei and her ‘ohana know the blessings and the struggles of coming from an ‘āina that is sometimes separated from the rest, especially during the rainy seasons, and I have witnessed first-hand, both the growth and appreciation of the families and their children for this program and this ‘āina.

I have worked at Waipā, Kanuikapono Public Charter School, Alu Like, Hawai'i Land Trust, and am currently developing the Hawaiian Language Program at Island School, and Lei and her 'Ohana has always supported my teaching endeavors through allowing me to bring my students to work and stage lessons at Kamealoha. Through Kamealoha, students not only learn about 'āina, but they're able to live the lessons taught and connect to 'āina, which is more important today than ever before because of the impacts of Covid. There is also so much more meaning and mana (power) to hear generational mo'olelo (stories) from the descendants on their one hānau (ancestral land), and as an educator and a mother, I have witnessed so many student, and individual transformations. Kamealoha Kuleana is always an 'āina that everyone remembers and wants to return to because of how the place and its people make you feel.

On a more personal note, Kamealoha Kuleana, Lei and the Wann 'Ohana, also helped my family through one of our greatest struggles, and during a time when my family needed to be surrounded with love in a safe space. Lei, the Wann 'Ohana and Kamealoha Kuleana was our pu'uhonua (city of refuge), all of whom without, I am not sure where we would be today. My family is one like many others, who do not have 'āina associated with our names, but we understand that the land shapes us, just as much as we shape the land. Every summer my children and I look forward to being able to spend any length of time in Hā'ena, particularly at Kamealoha, to rejuvenate ourselves and reconnect to the things that are really the most important in this life and get away from technology and the many distractions technology has brought about.

Kamealoha is a hidden treasure. I don't know of any other place that I can rest my head near flowing waters and then wake up and wash in an ice-cold stream where I know families used to gather to bathe and wash their dishes. I don't know of any other place, protected by a beautiful mountain whose family still practices an ancient artform that we hear about in song. I don't know of any other place so near to a freshwater spring that nourishes a community, whose lineal descendant was able to have access to that wai donated back and protected. I don't know of any other place where in the same day one can either hike up mauka (towards the mountains) to gather food to eat or plants to make beautiful adornments, work in a lo'i, or go down to the kai (ocean) and be greeted by seals, surf on a sacred break from ancient stories, or even learn how to holo (fish) as the ancestors of the land once did from actual lineal descendants, or observe their descendants who still do. I don't know of any other 'āina momona that has been cared for and protected by a single family such as Lei's, surrounded by millionaires and large expensive structures, and yet humbly open to anyone who loves the land and wants to learn. I am but one humble makuahine (mother), kaikamahine (daughter), mo'opuna (granddaughter), kumu (educator) a kanaka kaiāulu (community member), but I represent many who love and cherish this place and the Wann 'Ohana, and many of whom would suffer a great loss as a result of not being able to return to and care for an 'āina that has given and done so much by simply still being here. E mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono...please allow the Wann 'ohana, and all of us who love them, to continue to perpetuate the life of this precious 'āina 'o Kamealoha.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kanānāikahaku A.N.K.D. Kuhaulua

[EXTERNAL] Support for Protect Kamealoha Kuleana (Haena, Kauai)

Pelika Andrade

Thu 2/9/2023 7:15 AM

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

Aloha nui kāua,

My name is Pelika Andrade, a native of Kauai and hoa'āina to Halele'a. I am sending this email in support of Kipuka Kuleana, the Wann 'Ohana and the Trust for Public Land to protect Kamealoha Kuleana, securing this special place for the families, and community, who have tended and cared for it over generations. Kuleana lands that are continually held and cared for by Native Hawaiians are becoming more and more scarce every year as land taxes increase beyond living wages and people are pushed out from increased external interests. These Kuleana land bases are the heartbeat of our communities as they represent an unbroken chain of relationship, genealogy, kuleana, and all that our Hawaii embody. We must do all we can to keep the chain unbroken.

In regards to the 'Ohana that care for Kamealoha Kuleana (Wann 'Ohana), they are true gems of the community. Just within the last 2 generations, their contributions have been the founding of Hui Maka'ainana o Makana (a non profit that is tending to the 15 acres of Ha'ena State Park as lo'i, a community center, and cultural advocate), the designation of the first CBSFA (community based subsistence fishing area) across Hawaii, the establishment of Kawaikini Charter School and place-based learning, and the strengthening of the Limahuli National Tropical and Botanical Garden within the Hawaiian Community. They are scientists, business owners, conservationists, historian, health care professionals, public servants, fishermen/women, and most importantly, kupa'aina to Haena. They have opened up Kamealoha Kuleana to support 'Ohana gatherings, community educational programs, as well as tending their lo'i to feed their 'Ohana and broader community. Kamealoha Kuleana and the Wann 'Ohana represent the essence of Hawaii and securing them within Haena will be a benefit to Halele'a and Hawai'i for generations to come.

Please except this testimony in support of Kamealoha Kuleana as I am unable to provide spoken testimony at this time.

Mahalo nui,
Pelika Andrade

--

I la Maika'i

Pelika Andrade
Extension, UH Sea Grant College Program
ED, Na Maka Onaona
808-960-8001
pelikaok@hawaii.edu

"Make your thoughts, choices, and actions reflect your hopes... not your fears!"

[EXTERNAL] Testimony for Kamealoha Kuleana

Jordan Lemke

Thu 2/9/2023 7:36 AM

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

Greetings,

I am writing in support of the Kamealoha Kuleana lands in Hā'ena, Kaua'i.

This 'āina absolutely needs to be protected and kept in the hands of the descendants, as it is currently. Kaua'i, especially North Shore Kaua'i is rapidly losing its roots and identity to the hands of greedy haoles. The wahi pana of Hā'ena and the hana the descendants are doing is critical to ensuring that the "Old Hawaiian Way" remains so that it may continue to be perpetuated for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Jordan Loudon

Resident of Wailuanuiaho'āno

[EXTERNAL] Letter of Support for Kamealoha Kuleana

Emily Cadiz

Thu 2/9/2023 7:38 AM

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

Aloha kākou,

My name is Emily Cadiz, I was born and raised in Mililani, O'ahu and I have been living on Kaua'i for the past 7 years. I am writing this letter in ***support of the Wann 'Ohana, Kīpuka Kuleana, and the Trust for Public Lands, to protect the Kamealoha Kuleana parcel.***

I have known the Wann 'ohana for 8+ years and have been the Education Program Director for Hui Maka'āinana o Makana since 2016. Before Hui Maka'āinana o Makana was formed and started their stewardship agreement with State Parks, the Kamealoha Kuleana was the 'āina that housed and fed Hā'ena education and programs. With Lei's career as a teacher at Kawaikini Charter School, she started to build education programs for the lineal descendants and community right from their Kamealoha 'āina.

Kamealoha Kuleana has historical importance that goes back even further, as the 'āina of the families who carry the kuleana of so many Hā'ena traditional practices and heritage. 'Oahi ceremony and practice, lo'i kalo farmers, lei and hula practitioners, lawai'a (fishermen), are just to name a few of the rich history and practices that are perpetuated today in Hā'ena. We know the intrinsic value that knowledge and practices are embedded in a place and the familial relationships to place; and Kamealoha Kuleana has been a beacon of light for Hā'ena.

As an 'āina that restored our education so that we have been able to grow it into what it is today, it is important to our organization and community, to continue to protect these kuleana parcels in perpetuity for the lineal families and community of Hā'ena. The significant increase of land taxes and "new neighbors" buying out and moving into our local and Hawaiian communities is a huge problem across Hawai'i, and the story of so many. Especially in Hā'ena, where we have less than five lineal families from Hā'ena that are still able to hold onto their 'āina. People like Uncle Presley Wann, Lei Wann, and their family, have been selfless leaders in our community, paving the way for community-based efforts in restoration, education, research, policy and management. They have poured decades into helping communities from State to International level, in telling the stories and sharing lessons and messages of hope to empower people of place to take action for their community.

As they return to their piko, the 'āina of their kupuna....as they return to tend the fires of their own home, we stand in solidarity with the Wann 'Ohana and the Kamealoha Kuleana. We support the efforts of Kīpuka Kuleana and Trust for Public Lands. Mahalo for the opportunity to share and support the families and communities close to my heart.

Mahalo nui loa,

Emily Cadiz

Program Director, Hui Maka'āinana o Makana

[EXTERNAL] Testimony in favor of funding Kamealoha Kuleana

Marion Paul

Thu 2/9/2023 9:38 AM

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

Aloha kakou,

I am writing in support of the \$1.85 million funding request to the LLCP to fund the purchase of Kamealoha Kuleana.

Now more than ever, these lands and cultural heritage sites need our protection. I can think of no better way to allocate our funds than to protect these lands in perpetuity.

Mahalo,

Marion

Marion Paul
P.O. Box 492
Kilauea, HI 96754-3022
808-634-3196

[EXTERNAL] Support for Kamealoha Kuleana

Laurel Brier

Thu 2/9/2023 11:29 AM

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

Written testimony in support of funding to protect Kamealoha Kuleana.

Given the cultural and environmental significance of this area and the great community support it has received the past decades to restore and protect it, we petition the Legacy Land Conservation Commission for funding.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Brier

Kaua'i Women's Caucus

He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve
Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, Hawai'i

February 9, 2023

Testimony in support of a conservation easement for Kamealoha Kuleana (Item 2D, 2/10/2023)

Aloha to Chair Haase and the members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I urge you to support the awarding of a conservation easement and associated funding for the Kamealoha Kuleana in Hā'ena, Kaua'i. Their application package provides the background information you will need to make your decision, so I will instead focus my testimony on validating the ecological and cultural value of this property, and to the integrity of the 'ohana who is submitting this application.

For 13 years, I was the Director of Limahuli Garden and Preserve, and in that capacity I lead the mālama 'āina initiatives on the 1,000 acre property just mauka of the property in question, so I am very familiar with it and the surrounding area. Kamealoha Kuleana is one of the last undeveloped kuleana lot in Hā'ena, and for that reason alone is worth protecting from speculative development. However, beyond that, the 'auwai on this property is important for 'o'opu (native fishes) connectivity, particularly between the springs and the stream, so it has high conservation value.

Finally, I can personally attest to the integrity of the 'ohana who is submitting this proposal. The Wann 'ohana has produced multiple generations of community leaders who have worked tirelessly for the benefit of our community. This property has helped to shape who they are. In fact, this property has helped to produce some of Hā'ena's most revered kūpuna in our past. With your help in protecting it, it will continue to produce kūpuna for the future generations.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,



Kawika Winter, PhD

Director, He'eia National Estuarine Research reserve

[EXTERNAL] LLCC Meeting 80 - Testifiers in Support of Agenda Item 2D - Kamealoha Kuleana

Reyna Ramolete

Wed 2/8/2023 9:22 PM

To: DLNR.FW.LLCC <llcc@hawaii.gov>; Penn, David <david.penn@hawaii.gov>

Aloha State Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

For Meeting 80, the following individuals plan to testify in person in support of Agenda Item 2D - Kamealoha Kuleana:

Holei Wann-Kelihoomalua

Kilinahe Smith

Ke'ala Wann

Presley Wann

Ke'ala Kai

Bettie Ann Chu Go

Kanani Durant

Mahalo nui,

Reyna

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi
Aloha 'Āina Project Manager



Trust for Public Land
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1512
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
P: 808.470.2146 | C: 808.983.9985

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™
tpi.org/hawaii | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: [Julie Kaomea](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of Kauluakalana and Trust for Public Land's Legacy Land application to protect and acquire Makali'i
Date: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:56:43 PM

Aloha mai e Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I write in strong support of Kauluakalana and Trust for Public Land's Legacy Land application for funds to acquire and protect Makali'i in Kailua, O'ahu, in order to preserve the Maunawili stream system and fertile agricultural landscape.

Furthermore, I fully support Kauluakalana as the future steward of Makali'i as the organization has an excellent track record in community land stewardship and 'āina restoration.

As a university professor of Indigenous and Native Hawaiian Education, I am particularly impressed by the extensive research base that undergirds Kauluakalana's efforts in 'āina restoration and 'āina education.

Kauluakalana's president, for instance, received her PhD in 'āina education in my university department where I was fortunate to serve as her dissertation advisor. Upon completing her doctorate, she collaborated with Kauluakalana's executive director to apply her doctoral research findings and his extensive experience in native habitat restoration to their 'āina-based restoration efforts and educational programming at Kūkanono and Manu.

Under the able stewardship of the dedicated and educated individuals of Kauluakalana, these lands of Makali'i can, likewise, be revitalized as 'āina momona, and become rich and fertile sites for 'āina-based education and the growth and nurturing of successive generations of aloha 'āina within our community.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration of this application.

(Please note that I am submitting this testimony in writing because, due to a conflicting meeting, and will not be available to submit verbal testimony during Friday's Legacy and Conservation Committee meeting.)

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Julie L. Kaomea
Professor of Education
juile.kaomea@outlook.com

[EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of 2/10/23 agenda item 2.E: Kauluakalana and Trust for Public Land's Legacy Land application to protect and acquire Makali'i

Dawn Mahi

Wed 2/8/2023 10:07 PM

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

Dear Legacy Land Conservation Program Commissioners,

My name is Dawn Mahi and I grew up in Kailua. When I was growing up, there were no opportunities in our community to visit lo'i and learn about Hawaiian culture outside of the resource teachers in our school.

Today, there are so many opportunities across Ko'olaupoko for learning, engagement, and hula ka lima ilalo, turning hands to the soil. Kauluakalana is an important organization in Kailua that provides experiences for hundreds of youth and community members to have meaningful experiences on 'āina and in lo'i. They are the only organization that teaches the mo'olelo, the stories and the old songs of Kailua. They help our place, which often doesn't feel like OUR place anymore, to be Hawai'i and feel like home. They have successfully taken over the legacy and lo'i at Ulupō heiau. They also have taken over 'āina behind Castle Hospital and have created spaces in both areas where people and native birds can thrive. Although rooted in Hawaiian culture, Kauluakalana is inclusive, and makes space for all to come and learn and share.

Now Kauluakalana has an unprecedented opportunity to take ownership, or really to steward and foster the kinship of people to land in Makali'i Valley in Kailua. With their years of experience and roots in the land, including their genealogies tied to this place, I can't think of anyone more suited or committed to protect Makali'i and help to create a place where the people of Kailua who care for our 'āina and history can engage and thrive for generations to come. Can we count on you to get behind this great work?

Thanks for your support, and your hard work!

Sincerely,

Dawn Mahi

KAI HO'OU LU

February 9, 2023

The Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: SUPPORT for Item 2.E Kauluakalana's application for funds from the Land Conservation Fund for Makali'i; fee title \$1,560,000, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu; TMKs: (1) 4-2-006:001, (1) 4-2-006:008 (approximately 59.27 acres)

Aloha nō kākou,

As an environmental and indigenous rights attorney, I respectfully urge the Commission to SUPPORT Item 2.E, Kauluakalana's application for funding to support their acquisition of fee title for the Makali'i property in Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu. After 20 years working for Native Hawaiians and Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources, an opportunity to support the proven track records of this community- and 'āina-based organization is a gift. That the Trust for Public Land and Hawai'i Land Trust have partnered with Kauluakalana and that community support for our current and proposed projects and programming has only grown exponentially since our inception provide even more confidence in the success of our nonprofit's intent, ability and desire to steward the properties and resources of Makali'i.

As a board member of Kauluakalana, I can assure the Commission that we take this kuleana very seriously. We have undergone extensive consultation and deep consideration and planning before assuring Kauluakalana's commitment and capacity to undertake this responsibility and privilege. We humbly request your approval of the expenditure of State Land Conservation Fund monies to complement the committed City and County of Honolulu's Clean Water and Natural Lands funds to acquire a perpetual conservation easement over Makali'i, in service to current and future generations of all the natural and cultural resources of this special place, including humans.

Kauluakalana has enjoyed working collaboratively with the Division of Forestry and Wildlife for several years, even when our leadership was part of Hika'alani. Our leadership and staff have led the curatorship of Ulupō Heiau and surrounding lands and have helped return DOFAW lands to traditional food production for the community and to welcoming habitat for endangered, endemic birds. We look forward to expanding the application of what we have learned in those processes to the significant habitats, lands and waters of Makali'i.

With the dedicated support of our 'ohana, community, collaborators and government, we look forward to turning our hands, hearts and minds to expanded work for the continued revitalization and perpetuation of aloha 'āina, 'āina momona, sustainable food and water security, and the invaluable cultural landscape of Makali'i that – with your help and support – can now be cared for and preserved in perpetuity. Mahalo nui for your shared consideration and care.

Me ke aloha,



Heidi Kai Guth