

**2024 Legacy Land Conservation Commission Draft Minutes, Meeting 83  
State of Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry & Wildlife**

**DATE:** February 29, 2024  
**PLACE:** Kalanimoku Building Room 132  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

And remote by interactive conference technology (online via ZOOM and by telephone)

**PARTICIPANTS**

**COMMISSIONERS:**

**In Person**

Mr. William "Butch" Haase  
Ms. Kim Falinski  
Ms. Beryl Blaich  
Mr. John Sinton  
Mr. Patrick Hart  
Ms. Kanoe Wilson  
Ms. Christiane "Kau'i" Lucas

**STAFF:**

**In Person**

David Penn Program Specialist, Legacy Land Conservation Program, Division of Forestry & Wildlife  
Van Matsushige Project Development Specialist, Land Division

**PUBLIC:**

**In Person**

Reyna Ramolette Hayashi  
Adele Palk  
Kapena Alapai  
Lehua Alapai  
Rae DeCoito  
Kehaulani Akaka  
Bryson Tokushima  
J. Ungos  
Annaix Kundset  
Ach Villanueva  
Savilo Bantley  
Emily Geske  
Chance Duun  
Makua Perry

**Via Zoom**

Alex Smolak  
Cary Boeddeker

Kanoa Alapai  
Danielle Hopkins  
Justine  
Keala Richardson  
Lorna Mae Kailiwai-Castillo  
Malia  
Sayo Constantino  
Debralee Puanani Kailiwai-Ray

**ITEM 1. Call to order**

Chair Haase called Meeting 83 to order at 9:05 AM. The Chair started the meeting by explaining the in-person and remote meeting procedures. Chair Haase began with the roll call of seven commissioners who were present with Jacob Tavares excused. Chair Haase recognized the LLC staff and explained the remote meeting procedures and the process should the connectivity go down. Scheduling of the next meeting if connectivity cannot be re-established will be made public.

Chair Haase reviewed the documents included in the board packet. Chair Haase asked the public for any questions. Commissioner Wilson asked when it was appropriate to notify the commission should a commissioner recuse themselves from testimony. Chair Haase responded that the commissioner should recuse themselves before any public testimony or presentation by the applicant. Seeing no comments or questions from the public in person or online, the Chair moved on to Item 2.

**ITEM 2. Fiscal Year 2024 applications for grants from the Land Conservation Fund – Presentation of Field Visit Reports from the Permitted Interaction Group pursuant to subsection 92-2.5(b). HRS, paragraph (1), each Permitted Interaction Group will present findings and recommendations on the application that it investigated. Commission deliberation and decision-making on each application investigated will not occur until Meeting 84 of the Commission, scheduled for February 29 at 12:30 pm and continuing on March 1 at 8:00 am.**

Chair Haase began Item 2 by stating that in Meeting 82, the commission established 5 Permitted Interaction Groups (PIG). The group leader for each group will be making presentations about their respective site visits with comments from commissioners who were part of the PIG.

**2.A. Nā 'Ōiwi o Pu'uanahulu requesting \$3 million to acquire approximately 27.38 acres for 'Anaeho'omalua Kapalaoa, District of Kona, Island of Hawai'i, TMK (3) 7-1-003:010**

Commissioner Tavares was the group leader. Seeing that he was unavailable, Patrick Hart reported on this site visit together with commissioners Wilson and Haase.

- Located on the boundary of North Kona and Kohala, the group was led through an extensive trail system including the Ala Kahakai trail.
- Significant feature was the petroglyph fields that extended below the highwater line on the shoreline. *Konane* was carved into the rocks.

- Anchialine pools where *opae'ula* were observed
- The property runs from the coastline up the mountain
- The ecology of the area with the pool systems allowed
- Multi-generational families have been and continue to steward the land  
Waikoloa Village Association and Ala Kahakai Trail Association works in collaboration with the families

2.B. Moku o Keawe Land Conservancy requesting \$499,000 to acquire an agricultural easement over approximately 20.1 acres at Nani Kai Hoku Farm, District of Kohala Island of Hawai'i, TMK (3) 5-5-008:069

Commissioner Wilson was the group leader with commissioners Blaich, Lucas and Hart and joined by Alex Kelepolo, Toni Withington and Megan Leatherman representing Moku o Keawe Land. The owners, Clarence and Gail Baber were also present.

- Located in the ahupua'a of Honomaka'u in Hawi, North Kohala
- The natural resources include native and endemic species such 'Io, *Pueo*, and *Ōpae'pae'a*
- Applicant wants to continue ancient and cultural agriculture
- Production area includes greenhouse, beehives
- Noted the public benefits of preserving prime agricultural lands, maintaining open space and view planes and preserving the health of the soil
- Funding streams include producing soil nutrient, Bokashi. Also, sales of honey produced on site.
- Commissioner Blaich highlighted how the farm was quite dynamic as it was constantly changing in response to the economic needs and the focus of maintaining soil health.
- Commissioner Lucas noted the commitment not to use chemicals on site since the owners have a deep understanding of natural ways to promote pest free and healthy environment for a thriving farm.
- Commissioner Hart added that many of the adjacent land is being gradually taken out of farming with this piece of land as the few remaining organic farm.
- Commissioner Wilson finished by stating that Moku o Keawe Land Conservancy will hold the agricultural easement. This group has a board that has a history in working in conservation and agricultural easements.

2.C. Mālama Loko Ea Foundation requesting \$750,000 to acquire approximately 1.1 acres at Loko Ea Queen's Residence, District of Waialua, Island of O'ahu, TMK (1) 6-2-003:008

Commissioner Sinton was the group leader. The PIG included commissioners Falinski, Lucas and Wilson.

- Located on the north side of O'ahu in the district of Waialua, the property is part of a regional wetland complex
- Fishpond is owned by Kamehameha Schools, but managed by Mālama Loko Ea. The proposed acquisition area borders the fishpond and owned by Liliuokalani Trust. The area is a former site of Queen Liliuokalani Waialua residence.
- The applicant has been actively stewarding the fishpond for close to 14 years through annual leases providing cultural and educational opportunities for students as well as the public. The group has also raised \$400K to dredge the

fishpond as part of its revival. Native plant nursery for outplanting is another activity on site.

- Although some of the fishpond has modern features such as concrete basins, it is an active fishpond
- The site has unique historical value but is threatened by pollution from neighboring properties
- The acquisition would solidify their role as stewards of Loko Ea
- The group has the capacity and experience to successfully manage the new acquisition
- Commissioner Wilson added that the acquisition will complete the management of the entire area
- Commissioner Lucas noted the robust program of Mālama Loko Ea that provides not only education programs but expertise to other fishpond stewards around the island

2.D. Pu'uwai Ko Ola requesting \$606,238 to acquire approximately 2.77 acres for Ke Ola Project, District of Wai'anae, Island of O'ahu, TMK (1) 8-5-005:002

Commissioner Falinski was the group leader with commissioners Sinton, Blaich and Lucas who were joined by the applicant Amy and Keola.

- Located in the back of Waianae Valley, the property is near the hiking trail up to Mt. Ka'ala.
- The property is zoned agriculture, so there are some existing structures on site, such as a gazebo and barn which could be used for events
- Since the group is a new non-profit organization, the group would be using their personal home as matching funds
- Although agricultural zoned, there are no plans to expand the agricultural activities. The short-term plan is to use the space for conservation and cultural learning by involving the community
- Commissioner Sinton pointed out that the even though the group is new, after meeting with them, there's more confidence in their ability to meet their objectives
- Commissioner Blaich also felt the applicant has the vision and commitment despite their lack of experience
- Commissioner Lucas echoed the other commissioners comments about the applicants especially their existing involvement in the community

2.E. Mālama Sanctuary requesting \$29,430 to acquire approximately 1 acre for Improving Sustainable Production, District of Puna, Island of Hawai'i, TMK (3) 1-3-017:016

Commissioner Wilson was the group leader with commissioners Blaich, Lucas and Hart. Alex Smolak was the applicant representative of this site visit.

- Located in Leilani Estate subdivision in Puna and a few blocks from fissure 8
- The property has native and endemic species such as *Ōhi'a*, *Lama*, *'Uluhe*, *Hapu'u* that could be seen from the roadway
- The plan is to do a small scale agricultural demonstration site cultivating coconut, mamaki and kava

- The agricultural easement has support from the Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers Association. Also aligned with the Puna Community Development Plan and supports food security
- Remaining outstanding issues include: Additional party to hold the agricultural easement and pending funding for the 25% matching funds. There's also the location risk as it sits near Fissure 8
- Commissioner Blaich noted that they visited two sites. The agricultural easement site and the other site where the applicant has a small farm.
- Commissioner Hart highlighted the applicant's vision of crop raising coconut especially since disease and other threats have decimated its numbers

Chair Haase asked for a motion to accept the Permitted Interaction Group reports for the FY2024 Land Grant applications. Chair Wilson made the motion and seconded by Commissioner Lucas. Motion passed unanimously with seven commissioners voting yes and one commissioner (Commissioner Tavares) excused.

### **ITEM 3. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Haase asked for a motion to adjourn Meeting 83. Commissioner Sinton moved to adjourn Meeting 83. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Seeing no further discussion, Chair Haase adjourned Meeting 83 at 10:30 AM.