

August 1, 2025

Ms. Jessica Puff, Administrator
State Historic Preservation Division
Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources
601 Kamokila Blvd, Room #555
Kapolei, HI 96707

Subject: Hakalau Plantation Co Warehouses – Hawaii Register of Historic Places Nomination

Dear Ms Puff & Committee Members:

I am the current owner of the property in which the “Hakalau Plantation Co Warehouses” are located.

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of the Hakalau Plantation Co Warehouses property for inclusion in the Hawaii Register of Historic Places. This nomination represents not only the preservation of an important piece of Hawaii's plantation-era history but also the continuation of meaningful stewardship of our precious 'āina.

The Hakalau Plantation Co Warehouses stand as significant historical structures that bear witness to Hawaii's sugar plantation era, a defining period in our islands' economic and social development. These warehouses served as vital infrastructure during the plantation's operation and represent the agricultural heritage that shaped our community and countless families throughout the Big Island.

What makes this nomination particularly compelling is the current stewardship of this historic property by Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative. This organization has demonstrated exceptional commitment to our community and environment through their groundbreaking work in sustainable forestry. Their achievement in providing the world's only sustainably harvested koa wood represents a remarkable fusion of conservation science, cultural preservation, and environmental responsibility.

Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative has proven themselves to be exemplary guardians of our 'āina. Their reforestation efforts not only restore native ecosystems but also ensure that future generations will have access to culturally significant native species like koa. Their work represents the kind of forward-thinking environmental stewardship that honors both our past and our future.

The preservation of the Hakalau Plantation Co Warehouses under the Hawaii Register would ensure that this historic property remains connected to our community while continuing to serve as a base for vital conservation work. This represents the best possible outcome for historic

preservation – maintaining the integrity of significant historical structures while allowing them to serve ongoing community benefit.

I believe that recognizing these warehouses as a historic site will:

- Preserve important tangible connections to Hawaii's plantation history
- Support the continued conservation work being conducted on the property
- Ensure community access to this historically significant location
- Provide educational opportunities for future generations to learn about our agricultural

heritage

- Demonstrate how historic preservation and environmental stewardship can work hand in hand

The combination of historical significance and current community benefit makes this nomination exceptionally worthy of approval. Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative has shown through their actions that they are committed to being responsible stewards of both our cultural heritage and our natural environment.

I urge you to give this nomination your full consideration and support. The Hakalau Plantation Co Warehouses deserve recognition and protection as an important part of Hawaii's historical legacy, and their current use for environmental restoration work represents the highest ideals of how historic properties can continue to serve community needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important nomination.

Sincerely,



Steve Shropshire



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