



HAWAI'I
Forest Institute

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July 24, 2018

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Hawai'i Forest
Industry Association

Irene Sprecher, Cooperative Resource Management Forester
DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Letter in Support of Helemano Wilderness Recreation Area Project

Aloha Ms. Sprecher,

The Hawai'i Forest Institute (HFI) strongly supports the proposed fee acquisition by the Hawai'i DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), and The Trust for Public Land, of approximately 3,027 acres in the Helemano area of O'ahu to provide opportunities for commercial forestry and recreation.

The mission of the HFI is to promote the health and productivity of Hawaii's forests through forest restoration, educational programs, information dissemination, and support for scientific research. Its Board is comprised of individuals who provide knowledgeable contributions in education, industry, science, law, environmental and cultural conservation, organizational governance, and academic research. The Institute's strength thus lies in the Board's ability to take thoughtful and measured steps to match goals with its organizational mandate.

HFI is aware of both the demand by crafts persons for locally sourced wood and other forest materials on O'ahu and the unfortunate dearth of such sources. This requires woodworkers and artisans to seek supplies from other islands or even outside of Hawai'i. The Helemano Wilderness Recreation Area has the potential to reverse this trend by providing a convenient source of forest products accessible to local artisans. The market is waiting for this project and the customer base already exists. Finally, converting fallow pineapple land to sustainably managed forest makes the project all the more exciting because it will aid in providing further recharge areas for Central O'ahu watershed areas and reduce sedimentation that would normally cloud nearshore waters and impact habitat for coastal species.

If you have any questions regarding our support for this project please do not hesitate to contact me at 808-679-1505.

Sincerely,

Travis Idol, President

Hawai'i Forest Institute



HAWAI'I FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala, HI 96774

Phone: 808-933-9411

Email: hfia@hawaiiiforest.org

Website: www.hawaiiiforest.org

July 24, 2018

Irene Sprecher, Cooperative Resource Management Forester
DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Letter in Support of Helemano Wilderness Recreation Area Project

Aloha Ms. Sprecher:

The Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA) strongly supports the proposed fee acquisition by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), and The Trust for Public Land, of approximately 3,027 acres in the Helemano area of O'ahu to provide opportunities for commercial forestry and recreation.

Established in 1989, HFIA is a nonprofit corporation founded by people committed to managing and maintaining healthy and productive forests with a mission of responsible forest management in Hawai'i. HFIA programs have increased business in Hawaii's estimated \$30.7 million annual forest industry and created jobs within that sector (which currently employs an estimated 1,000 people). HFIA offers an annual woodworking exhibition and sponsors the "HAWAII'S WOOD" trademark, which indicates that products bearing the trademark are of Hawai'i origin. HFIA also manages native forest ecosystems, and serves as an advocate for Hawaii's diverse forest industry – from planting and harvesting trees to creating and selling wood products.

O'ahu currently lacks commercial timber areas and resources, despite a substantial demand for source materials by local woodworkers and artisans, and a demand for finished local wood commercial timber industry on O'ahu. The area is ideally suited for timber production because of its fertile soils, gentle slopes, and optimal rainfall for tropical timber species, and the O'ahu location will make finished products accessible to the greatest number of users as well as a commercial distribution network. As a portion of the property is currently fallow pineapple land, converting such acreage to native forested areas that will be sustainably managed presents exciting opportunities not only for artisans and foresters, but also for outdoor enthusiasts who will be able to enjoy the scenery provided by native forest in a location much easier to access than most native forested areas in Hawai'i.

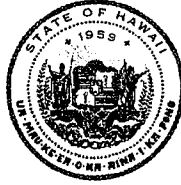
Mahalo for your time and consideration of this worthy project and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Koch, President
Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

HFIA Board of Directors

Officers: President Nickolas Koch, Vice-President Don Bryan, Secretary Peter D. Simmons, Treasurer Wade Lee
Directors: Thomas Calhoun, Jeremy Campbell, John Cross, Mike Donoho, Douglas Gordon, Aaron Hammer, Tai Lake, Gilles Lebbe, Allan Parachini, Michael Tam, Philipp Lahaela Walter, Jorma Winkler, Aileen Yeh



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ

September 10, 2018

Ms. Suzanne Case, Chair
and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Case and Members:

RE: Fee Acquisition of Approximately 2,882 Acres in Helemano, Central O'ahu, Hawai'i, for Public Recreation and Watershed Use
TMKs: 6-3-001:003, 6-4-004:011, 7-1-002:011, and 7-2-001:003

As the Senator of District 22 (Mililani Mauka, Waipi'o Acres, Wheeler, Wahiawa, Whitmore Village, and Portion of Poamoho) in which the above-listed parcels are situated, I strongly support the efforts of DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) and The Trust for Public Land to purchase approximately 2,882 acres in the Helemano area of O'ahu for recreation, commercial forestry, and preservation of critical watershed areas.

DOFAW will manage these newly acquired acres for people to enjoy hiking, camping, hunting, and other outdoor recreational activities, as well as for agriculture and commercial forestry to provide source materials to local woodworkers and artisans. With this newly acquired property also comes increased access to an additional 4,300 acres – the Poamoho section of the Ewa Forest Reserve - and the premier trail to summit the Ko'olau Mountains.

Access to the Poamoho Trail has historically been problematic due to private ownership and landowner concerns regarding liability and trespassing. By acquiring the access to the Poamoho Trail and most of the surrounding private land, the access issue should no longer be a concern.

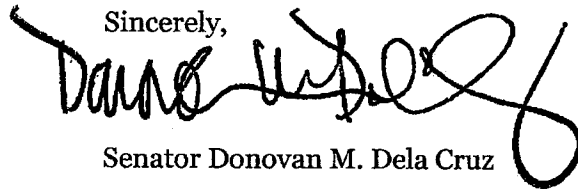
This acquisition will not only substantially increase lands for public enjoyment, but also secure a major watershed area that provides drinking water to an area from Pearl Harbor to the North Shore. The watershed also contains native forest, endangered Hawaiian hoary bat habitat, and is home to many endangered native plant species. Thus, this acquisition will serve multiple purposes in providing healthy forests for the people to enjoy and ensuring clean fresh water for now and the future.

State Senate, State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Rm. 208
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-6090
Email: sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov

Ms. Case
September 10, 2018
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For these reasons, I strongly urge your support for the acquisition of these parcels. Thank you for your consideration of this significant matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donovan M. Dela Cruz", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz



July 24, 2018

Ms. Suzanne Case, Chair
Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813
blnr.testimony@hawaii.org

RE: Acquisition of ~3,000 acres in Helemano, Central O'ahu; Hawai'i, for public recreation and watershed use; TMKs: 6-3-001:003, 6-4-004:001, 7-1-002:011, and 7-2-001:003.

Dear Chair Case:

The Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club (HTMC) strongly supports the Trust for Public Land and the Department of Forestry and Wildlife's (DOFAW) current efforts to purchase ~2,900 acres in the Helemano area of Central O'ahu.

DOFAW has gone on record as being willing to manage this extensive area for people to enjoy for hiking, camping, hunting and other outdoor recreational activities, as well as for agriculture and agroforestry. The acquired land will not only substantially increase public access to a pristine section of O'ahu's mountains and native forests, but will also secure a major watershed that provides drinking water to an area from Pearl Harbor to the North Shore, provides habitat for the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat, and is home to many endangered plant species.

Access to the Poamoho section of the Ewa Forest Reserve and the Poamoho Trail to the Ko'olau Summits has historically been problematic due to private ownership and landowner concerns about liability and trespassers. From the perspective of HTMC, the proposed acquisition of ~2,900 acres promises to be a massive boost to hikers, conservationists and general outdoor enthusiasts. This is why HTMC, at its most recent Board of Directors meeting, voted unanimously to support the project.

In recent years, the HTMC Trail Maintenance Crew has put in approximately 200 person hours in maintaining the Poamoho Trail. Should the opportunity to build additional trails on this land become available, we would welcome the opportunity to explore collaborations to build and maintain new hiking trails. Such trails would be useful not only for recreation, but for species and watershed management.

Best regards,
Richard Westbury Nettell
Richard Westbury Nettell, President
president@htmclub.org

*Mailing: PO Box 2238 Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Clubhouse: 41-023 Puuone Street Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795
Web: <http://htmclub.org>*