Via Email blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov
Chair Suzanne Case & Board Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Re: Agenda Item C.2.D. - Legacy Land Conservation Program – Grant of $700,000 to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife for the acquisition of approximately 948.2 acres at Koʻolaupoko, Oʻahu (Kāneʻohe Pali to Loʻi project Phase I), Tax Map Key Numbers: (1) 4-5-025:008, (1) 4-5-041:001, (1) 4-5-041:004, and (1) 4-5-042:018

Aloha Chair Case and Board Members:

My staff and I have visited the Kāneʻohe Pali to Loʻi Phase I project with staff from the Division of Forestry and Wildlife ("DOFAW") and The Trust for Public Land. We strongly support the conservation of these lands, and DOFAW’s willingness to work with Native Hawaiian stakeholders and community members to restore these lands.

This project will conserve springs, waterfalls, priority watershed, native forest, and habitat for native plant and animal species, historic trails, burials, birthing stones, and mountain peaks famed in Hawaiian moʻolelo, mele and oli. These lands are an important cultural landscape for Kāneʻohe, and have my strong support. Honestly, I was surprised that this land was not already owed by the State, as it is so vital to the Kāneʻohe community. It's time to bring this land back into our stewardship.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of this important project.

Scot Z. Matayoshi
Hawaiʻi State Representative - District 49
Kaneohe | Maunawili | Olomana
Via Email blnr.testimonv@hawaii.gov
Chair Suzanne Case & Board Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Re: Agenda Item C.2.D. - Legacy Land Conservation Program – Grant of $700,000 to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife for the acquisition of approximately 948.2 acres at Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu (Kāne‘ohe Pali to Lo‘i project Phase I), Tax Map Key Numbers: (1) 4-5-025:008, (1) 4-5-041:001, (1) 4-5-041:004, and (1) 4-5-042:018

Aloha Chair Case and Board Members:

As the State Representative for House District 48, which includes Kāne‘ohe, my family and I had the opportunity to visit the Kāne‘ohe Pali to Lo‘i Phase I project with staff from the Division of Forestry and Wildlife ("DOFAW") and The Trust for Public Land. I strongly support the conservation of these lands, and DOFAW’s willingness to work with Native Hawaiian stakeholders and community members to restore these lands. My constituents have also played important roles in conservation efforts in my community (not only related to this project, but other efforts as well), and support this project.

This project will conserve springs, waterfalls, priority watershed, native forest, and habitat for native plant and animal species, historic trails, burials, birthing stones, and mountain peaks famed in Hawaiian mo‘olelo, mele and oli. These lands are an important cultural landscape for Kāne‘ohe, and have my strong support.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of this important project.

Representative Lisa Kitagawa