VIA EMAIL TRANSMITTAL

May 22, 2019

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources
Kalanimoku Building, Room 132
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
email: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF AGENDA ITEM D1
Grant of Term, Non-Exclusive Easement to Wai'oli Valley Taro Hui, Inc. for Surface Water Diversion and Irrigation Purposes, Wai'oli, Hanalei, Kaua'i, Tax Map Key: (4) 5-6-002:001 (portion)

Aloha Chair Case and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Conrad "Kimo" Inanod and I am a kalo farmer in Wai'oli Valley and the Vice President of the Wai'oli Valley Taro Hui. I'm sorry that I am not able to come to O'ahu to testify before you in person, but my wife Lilinoe just gave birth to our third child and I have 'ohana kuleana. Like many others in our Hui, my family has been farming kalo and stewarding Wai'oli's natural and cultural resources since before I was born. I am a fourth generation Native Hawaiian kalo farmer; I cultivate one kuleana that my family owns and about 7 acres that I lease from Wai'oli Corporation. I also help to mālama Wai'oli Stream and the larger watershed.

I was raised by my grandpa, James Masada, right here in Hanalei. Almost thirty years ago to the day, back in May of 1989, my grandpa and I submitted declarations of our water use with your sister agency the Commission on Water Resource Management. In 1993, the Commission verified our water uses from the mānowai, po'owai, and 'auwai that we seek an easement for today. I am also an avid hunter, and regularly access the mauka reaches of our watershed to exercise my traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights and practices.

But for me, and so many others, the issue before you today is not a legal one. For us, this is about protecting and restoring our quality of life as Native Hawaiian practitioners and small family farmers. Kaua'i's North Shore has changed dramatically, and our sleepy farming community has been transformed into a bustling tourist destination and construction zone. While the easement you are considering today will not repair our māno, lo'i, or equipment that was devastated by last year's flooding, it will provide an important assurance and semblance of hope that we will be able to persevere into the future and maintain this way of life for our children and the generations yet to come. While we will still have a long road to recovery, our community is resilient. But, we need your kōkua, and this easement, to continue our efforts in earnest.

Mahalo piha,

C. Kimo Inanod