

June 28, 2019

**Testimony to the Board of Land and Natural Resources
In Support of “Day at Lake Wilson” event at Wahiawa Fresh Water State Park**

Chair Case and members of the Board,

My name is Poni Askew and I am a business owner and resident of Wahiawa town. My family has lived on Walker Ave which is the street that enters Wilson Freshwater Park. I am also on the board of the Leilehua Alumni and Community Association (LACA). We are an all-volunteer, grassroots community organization that works with Leilehua Complex Schools to better the outcomes for our keiki and students.

I appreciate the opportunity to come before you and request Board approval of the **Day at Lake Wilson event** in November 2019 at the Wahiawa Fresh Water State Park. We are excited by the opportunity to work with DLNR and State Parks to highlight the incredible natural resource that Lake Wilson and the Fresh Water park represents. We have agreed to be part of a coalition of Wahiawa community organizations, including the Wahiawa Community and Business Association and the Leilehua Alumni Community Association, to work towards a successful **Day at the Lake**.

Firstly, I want to thank DLNR and State Parks for including the community as part of the planning and implementation of this event. They have been responsive and accommodating to the ideas and feedback of the community, and we are enjoying this working partnership.

As a lifetime resident and neighbor to the Fresh Water park I have always wanted to see our community’s resource activated and used for community engagement, gathering, recreation and past time activities. It’s exciting to see the community’s interest, state investment into our park and new design ideas for this. The community’s efforts to host an event in November comes at an optimal time. **Day at the Lake** is planned as a celebration of the history and natural attributes of this unique resource. With this event, we are seeking to generate more interest in the park as a prime recreational spot, particularly for families in Wahiawa. It is also a great opportunity to teach about conservation and sustainability of our island’s resources.

We are hoping to include, in a manageable manner, for-profit vendors as exhibitors and food concessions for the event. We are requesting approval for our non-profit to collect fees from these vendors and to allow sales of food and non-food items at the event. We are interested in bringing in vendors related to the resource (i.e. fishing, aquaponics, boating) and to the concepts of conservation/sustainability, and we want to promote food vendors from the Wahiawa community first as a way to support local businesses in the area.

Generated revenues will pay for event operational costs, but also for improvements and activities at the Fresh Water park. For instance, the community is working with State Parks to improve and maintain walking paths at the park. We are hoping the event will take place annually and will raise funds to consistently improve the lake area and increase usage of the park by the community. Wahiawa CBDO is willing to indemnify the State with appropriate insurance coverage of the event and can provide an after-action report with full accounting of event revenues and expenses.

Thank you again for your consideration of this request.

Mahalo,
Poni Askew
Leilehua Alumni Community Association



WAHIAWA

Community Based Development Organization (WCBD)

PO Box 861191, Wahiawa HI 96786

June 28, 2019

Testimony In Support of "Day at Lake Wilson" event at Wahiawa Fresh Water State Park

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Chair Case and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is **Darin Uesugi** and I am a resident of Wahiawa town and a member of the **Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization (WCBD)** also known as **Wahiawa Fresh!** We are an all-volunteer, grassroots community organization that works to improve Wahiawa Town.

I appreciate the opportunity to come before you and request Board approval of the **Day at Lake Wilson** event, November 2019 at the Wahiawa Fresh Water State Park. We are excited by the opportunity to work with DLNR and State Parks to highlight the incredible natural resource that Lake Wilson and the Fresh Water park represents. We have built a coalition of Wahiawa community organizations, including the Wahiawa Community and Business Association and the Leilehua Alumni Community Association, to work towards a successful Day at the Lake.

Firstly, I want to thank DLNR and State Parks for including the community as part of the planning and implementation of this event. They have been responsive and accommodating to the ideas and feedback of the community, and we are enjoying this working partnership.

For so long, the Wahiawa community has had a passive relationship with the Fresh Water park and the lake in general. But with renewed community interest and new design ideas for this resource, this event comes at an optimal time. **Day at Lake Wilson** is planned as a celebration of the history and natural attributes of this unique resource. With this event, we are seeking to generate more interest in the park as a prime recreational spot, particularly for families in Wahiawa. It is also a great opportunity to teach about conservation and sustainability of our island's resources.

We are hoping to include, in a manageable manner, for-profit vendors as exhibitors and food concessions for the event. We are requesting approval for our non-profit to collect fees from these vendors and to allow sales of food and non-food items at the event. We are interested in bringing in vendors related to the resource (i.e. fishing, aquaponics, boating) and to the concepts of conservation/sustainability, and we want to promote Wahiawa food vendors to support local business.

Generated revenues will pay for event operational costs, but also for improvements and activities at the Fresh Water park. For instance, the community is working with State Parks to improve and maintain walking paths at the park. We are hoping the event will take place annually and will raise funds to consistently improve the lake area and increase community usage of the park. Wahiawa CBDO is willing to provide a certificate of insurance for the event and an after-action report with full accounting of event revenues and expenses.

Thank you again for your consideration of this request.

Mahalo,

Darin Uesugi