September 26, 2019

Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson
and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources
Via E-mail Only: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Dear Chairperson Case and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

RE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING AGENDA ITEM D.1 RELATING TO REVOCABLE PERMITS ON THE ISLAND OF KAUA‘I

I am writing to you as an individual Councilmember on the Kaua‘i County Council and the Chair of the Council’s Public Safety and Human Services Committee. This testimony is regarding Item No. D.1 on your September 27, 2019 Board of Land and Natural Resources Meeting agenda.

I urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to defer the acceptance of RP #7721 - Falko Partners, LLC – Tax Map Key (TMK) No. (4) 4-69:28,44,45, also known as the Ho‘opi‘i Falls Trail. The second falls are at the juncture of State-lease land parcels: TMK No. (4) 4-69:44 and 45, and State-owned “ditch” TMK No. (4) 4-69:17. The trail also traverses through TMK No. (4) 4-69:28.

The Kaua‘i County Council is currently discussing the incremental encroachment of affluent investors to be able to close off beach and mountain access points to the citizens. It is with great expense to the County to re-open locations that have held traditional hunting, gathering, and recreational opportunities for our people for generations.

The Ho‘opi‘i Falls trail has been utilized as an educational area for students by various non-profits and is one of the few remaining trails where our citizens can enjoy the natural beauty of the falls in the neighborhood of Kapahi. The appointed Kaua‘i Nā Ala Hele Advisory Council has taken an active interest in preparing a lease amendment to ensure that public access to the falls will continue in perpetuity.
Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony regarding this agenda item. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

FELICIA COWDEN
Councilmember, Kaua‘i County Council