

Aloha Board Members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am testifying in support for the FEIS Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh Master Plan with some reservations.

I am a Hawaiian naturalist and environmental science educator who lived and grew up in the Kailua 'Ahupua'a in the 1930's and 40's when the population of Kailua was about 2,000 people. It is now over 40,000 people and I have seen the changes taking place in the cultural and ecological landscape. I have also been involved with Kailua Hawaiian organizations and environmental and community organizations to protect, conserve and restore the Kawainui-Hamakua wetlands for the past 40-50 years by collaborating with the DLNR – DSP and DOFAW not only in the conservation efforts but also in leading and conducting Hawaiian Cultural and Ecological Science programs and activities for school groups, the local community and visitors who come to Hawaii.

The Kawainui/Hāmākua Master Plan should be supported and implemented because of its invaluable educational, recreational, cultural, and environmental components. Restoration of the wetland ponds is needed to open up habitats for endangered birds, fish, and other estuary organisms. The Ramsar Kawainui and Hamakua Wetlands of International Importance are significant and certain areas of the Kailua 'Ahupua'a watershed are in need of attention and should be restored to a healthier ecosystem.

As I have indicated in my opening statement, I support the FEIS with reservations because much of which we believe to be important elements to the FEIS have been eliminated and/or reduced to appease certain groups in the Kailua community that want to "Keep Kailua Kailua". Our mantra is to "Keep Kailua Hawaiian".

One of the most important components of the master plan that is under threat of extinction is the — Kanaka Maoli. A native Hawaiian presence aided by a native Hawaiian Cultural Centers at Kawainui is key to the

restoration and perpetuation of native culture in Kailua. Management and stewardship of the sacred cultural and archaeological sites on the edges of Kawainui can be accomplished by not eliminating components in the master plan such as secured parking areas, an environmental education center, plant nurseries, tool sheds, a Kawainui/Kalaheo Estuary Pavilion for school groups and other elements of the Kapa'a Hawaiian Cultural Center. Any of these features slated for removal and/or reduced, should be reinstated in the FEIS.

Other components under threat by the FEIS is the educational access to Kawainui and the decrease in the quality and quantity of existing education programs by not providing educational facilities, research facilities, bird viewing platforms and trails and other pavilions for hands-on learning experiences. Any support structures for education that have been removed from the DEIS master plan should be re-instated immediately. There is a tremendous demand for educational programs at Kawainui and it is difficult to bring local residents and students there for quality comprehensive learning experiences without amenities like restrooms, as well as trails and educational facilities. Make the Kawainui-Hamakua wetlands an "Inviting Place" for the community and families to come to for educational, recreational and scenic wetland observations.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources should provide immeasurable support behind organizations that are actually achieving and expanding ecosystem restoration, conservation, food growing, and sustainability work on state lands. These organizations, 'Ahahui Mālama I Ka Lōkahi, Hika'alani, and Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, have been making incredibly valuable contributions to the health of this natural and cultural resources in our community for decades with little support. They are the protectors and guardians of Kawainui, lands that are sacred to them, and their kuleana (moral responsibility).

Political arguments in the community and a proliferation of misinformation about the master plan by those opposed to structures there threaten to

damage support for native Hawaiians at Kawainui. Any objection to native Hawaiian involvement and supporting structures in the master plan should be nullified by recognition of the overwhelming accomplishments of native Kailua Hawaiian organizations at Kawainui and what can be achieved there by supporting amenities.

Thank you for recognizing my reserved support for the FEIS Kawainui-Hamkua master plan and objections to the removal of features in the plan to enhance and aid educational, cultural, and environmental restoration and preservation.

Malama pono,
Chuck "Doc" Burrows, Ed.D. – Hawaiian Naturalist and Environmental
Science Educator

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October 21, 2019

Suzanne Case, Chair

Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources

1151 Punchbowl Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Case and Board Members:

The Trust for Public Land strongly supports the proposed fee acquisition of the Waimea Native Forest property on Oahu's North Shore by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife. This project protects approximately 3,716 acres of forested watershed and managed by DOFAW.

The Hawai'i Community Foundation's Hawai'i Water Initiative reported that over half of the State's watershed forests have been destroyed with only 13 percent of those remaining actively protected. According to the Water Initiative, a critical step toward ensuring sufficient drinking water for the future is to "enhance and increase large recharge" areas. Spanning 600 to 2,600 feet in elevation, and containing the headwaters of Kamananui and 'Elehāhā Streams, which flow to Waimea Bay, the Waimea Native Forest is an important recharge area and a high priority watershed for both DOFAW and the Honolulu Board of Water Supply.

The Waimea Native Forest is also home to US Fish and Wildlife Service listed Endangered bat, bird, and plant species. Waimea Bay, below the property, is part of the Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary as humpback whales give birth in the nearshore waters of Waimea Bay; it is also included in the Pūpūkea Marine Life Conservation District. DOFAW management, which will include enhancement of the native forest and groundcover restoration, will increase the absorption of water by the watershed as well as reduce sediment flow to Waimea Bay which will accordingly reduce the number and severity of brownwater incidents.

Because the positive impacts of this acquisition and DOFAW management run from the Ko'olau summit to Waimea Bay, this project has drawn substantial support, as reflected by the attached letters in support submitted for TPL's grant proposal. We hope you will agree that acquiring, protecting, and managing the Waimea native Forest will be an asset to the State and people for the future.

Mahalo –

Lea Hong
 Hawaiian Islands State Director
 Edmund C. Olson Fellow

Enclosures: 7 Letters of Support





United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

In Reply Refer To:
01EPIF00-2017- TA-0304

JUN 22 2017

Mr. Jonathan Birdsong
Director, Western Regional Office
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
90 New Montgomery St, Suite 1010
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Letter of Support for the Trust for Public Land's proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to conserve the Waimea Native Forest, Oahu

Dear Mr. Birdsong:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service strongly supports The Trust for Public Land's proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to conserve the Waimea Native Forest, located on the North Shore of Oahu, Hawaii, through acquiring it in partnership with the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW).

The Waimea Native Forest acquisition, and management by DOFAW, will facilitate the success of several USFWS recovery plans and help to preserve a large piece (3,716 acres) of the northern Ko'olau Mountains. Critical habitat for Oahu Elepaio borders the property and federally endangered Oahu Elepaio and endangered Hawaiian hoary bat have been documented in the vicinity and likely occupy the Waimea Native Forest for roosting and feeding. endangered Oahu tree snails are known to be on or near the Waimea Native Forest, and numerous federally listed native plant species occupy, or have critical habitat contiguous to the property. The property itself was excluded from critical habitat designation because of prior military lease and exclusion from designation because if approved Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The Army lease has expired and is no longer managed under the INRMP.

DOFAW plans for management include fencing, feral ungulate control, rodent control, removal of invasive plant species, and outplanting of native trees and groundcover – all essential elements for improving the quality of a native forest that has suffered some degradation and will get increasingly worse with lack of management. Mosquitos threaten native bird species because they carry avian malaria and pig activity creates wallows and other breeding vectors. Pig activity also results in rooted out areas of native plants that are, at best, displaced by alien species that degrade the forest, but in many cases such areas turn into mud bogs that might support strawberry guava but have no understory to retain and slow storm flow. The result is further

degradation. Having the management capacity of DOFAW, with its many watershed management partners, is the ideal way to reverse these trends. After acquisition, DOFAW also intends to conduct further surveys to determine the extent of endangered and other endemic species on the property, and what specific measures can be taken to enhance their survival and recovery.

The Service supports this acquisition in an effort to conserve endangered species. Please contact Jodi Charrier, Endangered Species Biologist (phone: 808-792-9400) should you have any questions pertaining to this letter of support. When referring to this project, please include this reference number: 01EPIF00-2017-TA-0304.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Nadig', is positioned above the printed name.

Aaron Nadig
Island Team Manager
Oahu, Kauai, Northwestern Hawaiian
Islands, and American Samoa



WAIMEA VALLEY

HI'IPAKA LLC

Jonathan Birdsong
Director, Western Regional Office
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
90 New Montgomery St, Suite 1010
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Birdsong:

Hi'ipaka, LLC, owner of the 1,875-acre Waimea Valley on the North Shore of O'ahu, strongly supports the proposed acquisition of the 3,716-acre Waimea Native Forest by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW).

Waimea Valley is downstream of the Waimea Native Forest. Both are part of the ahupua'a of Waimea. An ahupua'a, or watershed, is an ancient Hawaiian concept of resource use and management of a particular division of land that connects the mountains to the reefs and the sea. The Trust for Public Land helped Hi'ipaka acquire Waimea Valley for protection in 2006, and more recently assisted us in the acquisition of the sole remaining inholding. With the remainder of the ahupua'a being the City-owned Waimea Beach Park, the acquisition of the Waimea Native Forest would complete the protection of the entire ahupua'a from the summit of the Ko'olau Mountains to Waimea Bay.

Since Hi'ipaka acquired Waimea Valley, we have blended careful monitoring and restoration of native ecosystems within the ahupua'a of Waimea Valley with demonstrations of how cultural uses and gathering can encourage stewardship from within the local community. The Valley is home to almost a dozen of federally listed endangered 'Alae 'ula or Common Hawaiian Moorhen, and numerous endangered native plant species. Restoration of native plant habitats have enhanced the watershed and improved the water quality and quantity for the valley. Waimea Valley works closely with the Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership, DOFAW, and volunteer groups to accomplish this task.

What we at Hi'ipaka cannot control is the upper watershed above us, which can bring torrents of sediment-laden water during mountain storms and negatively impact our efforts. That is why DOFAW management of the upper ahupua'a, restoration of the native forest and groundcover,

and control of predators that devastate native plants and other species, will be invaluable for our own management, and for the many people who enjoy Waimea Valley and Waimea Bay.

We sincerely hope that you will consider contributing to the Waimea Native Forest acquisition, which will promote healthy forests, watersheds, and nearshore waters. Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to let me know of any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Richard Pezzulo
Executive Director



PACIFIC ISLANDS
CLIMATE CHANGE
COOPERATIVE



LANDSCAPE
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Stephen Rafferty
Project Manager
The Trust for Public Land
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 740
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Steve,

I am writing to convey our support of the Trust for Public Land's proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Acres for America program for the Waimea Native Forest project. The Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative (PICCC) is a collaborative, self-directed partnership involving more than 30 organizations, including the Trust for Public Land and Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resource's Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

The PICCC has produced state-of-the-art climate change vulnerability assessments for all native plant species and forest birds in Hawai'i. These assessments utilize models of how species' ranges are expected to shift in response to the warmer temperatures and altered rainfall patterns projected by the end of this century, continuing climate trends which have persisted for decades now. The Waimea Native Forest parcel currently hosts over forty species of climate-vulnerable plants and will offer valuable future habitat for many of these species. Our analysis also indicates that the upper elevations of the parcel will remain climatically suitable for the endangered O'ahu Elepaio (*Chasiempis ibidis*). Management of this parcel as a climate refugia for native plants and birds over the long term may confer significant benefits to other species found within its boundaries (e.g., invertebrates) and for Hawai'i's native biodiversity in general.

In closing, the PICCC fully supports the Waimea Native Forest project to meet current and future conservation goals.

Sincerely,

Deanna Spooner
PICCC Coordinator

Cc: Marigold Zoll, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources



Plant Extinction Prevention Program

19 E. Kawili St.

Hilo, HI 96720

(808) 974-4388, Fax: (808) 974-4226

June 21, 2017

Jonathan Birdsong, Director, Western Regional Office
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
90 New Montgomery St, Suite 1010
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Birdsong:

The Hawai'i Plant Extinction Prevention (PEP) Program fully supports the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife's (DLNR-DOFAW) grant proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation / Wal-Mart Acres for America program. The funds would contribute to the total acquisition price of the upper portion of the Waimea ahupua'a (land section) on O'ahu, Hawai'i (TMK 6-3-001:002), in partnership with The Trust for Public Land.

The PEP Program is a statewide project of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit of the University of Hawai'i with a mission to prevent the extinction of the state's critically rare plant species, focusing on the rarest of these that have fewer than 50 wild plants remaining. We coin these species "PEP species" and there are presently 238 of them. Our main activities involve the protection of wild plants, collection of plant propagules for genetic storage, surveys for additional plants, inventory and monitoring of plant populations, and reintroductions to create new populations.

The grant funds would provide DLNR-DOFAW the unique opportunity to actively manage the native forests of Waimea that is not presently offered by its present private landowner. Active management of threats to the forest will provide long-lasting conservation of PEP species and other endangered species that call the parcel their home, such as *Platydesma cornuta* var. *cornuta*, *Euphorbia rockii*, *Hesperomannia arborescens*, *Melicope hiiakae*, *Myrsine juddii*, and *Viola oahuensis*. Another endangered species, *Pritchardia bakeri*, likely remains in the lower part of the parcel.

We believe that the protection of the critically rare plant species within the parcel can contribute positively to the recovery of the species and is something the PEP Program wholeheartedly supports. Additionally, any improvement of the forest could also improve the landscape's resiliency against climate change. For these reasons, we request your support of DLNR-DOFAW's grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Joan M. Yoshioka
Statewide PEPP Manager



The Hawaii Association for Marine Education and Research, Inc.

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June 21, 2017

Jonathan Birdsong
Director, Western Regional Office
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
90 New Montgomery St, Suite 1010
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Letter of Support for The Trust for Public Land proposal

Dear Mr. Birdsong:

The Hawaii Association for Marine Education and Research, Inc. (HAMER) is a Hawaii-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to preserve and protect Hawaii's marine resources through research and education. We are proud to write this letter in strong support of DLNR acquiring the Trust for Public Land proposal.

Over the past decade, HAMER researchers have been studying the manta rays off Maui, resulting in the second dissertation on manta rays in the world at the time and the first to describe Maui's manta ray population size, home range, reproductive ecology and identify both natural and anthropogenic threats they face. During this time however, the marine habitat where the manta rays are known to aggregate has significantly degraded, resulting in manta ray sightings dropping by more than 75%. Witnessing this dramatic decline, we began to focus more on the changes to the reef habitat. It didn't take long to recognize that the greatest man-made threat to the reefs and the manta rays was land-based sources of sediment and pollution.

As we began to conduct coastal water quality and in-stream monitoring over the past three years, we came to understand the need for proper stewardship of the lands mauka of any coral reef ecosystem and the importance of proper land management practices in order to

ensure both the marine and terrestrial ecosystems are in balance.

As we identify sources of sediment and pollution during our research and address ways to eliminate those threats, we have learned the importance of collaborating with terrestrial resource managers in order to maintain the intimate connection between land use practices and marine resource health.

It is with that recognition, the importance of the mauka to makai connection, that we strongly support the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources to acquire and effectively manage the conservation of Waimea Native Forest on the North Shore of Oahu. This will help secure necessary critical habitat for several endangered species and to effectively manage a watershed that includes two headwaters for two major streams that feed directly into Waimea Bay. The connection between clean freshwater streams and uncompromised coastal waters are key to a healthy estuary where nursery fish can thrive.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Deakos", written in a cursive style.

Mark H. Deakos, *Ph.D.*
Executive Director



OCEANWIDE SCIENCE INSTITUTE

Jonathan Birdsong
Director, Western Regional Office
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
90 New Montgomery St, Suite 1010
San Francisco, CA 94105

May 30, 2017

Re: Letter in Support of Waimea Native Forest Fee Acquisition Project

Dear Mr. Birdsong,

Oceanwide Science Institute (OSI) is a Hawaii-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization involved in work that seeks to further the community's understanding of the marine ecosystem through science and education. OSI has extensive experience with studies of marine mammal behavior, particularly involving cetacean species in Hawaii. OSI provides expertise in assessing, measuring and/or projecting animal behavioral responses to environmental and/or anthropogenic factors. We design and execute animal behavior studies using a variety of tools, including acoustics, visual observation, photo ID, tracking and/or tagging of animals. We conduct passive acoustic monitoring worldwide, including deployment and retrieval of instrumentation and analysis and interpretation of acoustic data. OSI's proprietary Ecological Acoustic Recorder is used widely around the world by agencies and institutions that include, NOAA, the U.S. Navy, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology and several other academic, private sector and government entities throughout the U.S., Europe and Asia.

Included in the research OSI and its staff of biologists perform is the study of behavior and habitat use by humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*) in the Hawaiian Islands, including in and around the Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. Female humpback whales give birth within the Sanctuary, including in the nearshore waters of Waimea Bay. Typically, the mothers and calves remain in the area for several weeks afterward before migrating to their feeding grounds at higher latitudes. During those first few weeks after birth, humpback calves are particularly vulnerable to predators, particularly tiger sharks (*Galeocerdo cuvier*) in the Oahu area. Important to the mother being able to protect her calf is good water visibility so as to detect predators in time to take protective actions. Spinner dolphins also commonly use Waimea Bay as a resting habitat, and similarly require good water visibility conditions. Spinner dolphins will typically abandon the area if water quality becomes degraded.

Waimea Bay is known for brownwater incidents after storms. Though there are several contributing factors, sediment from upper Waimea Valley is a key problem. Marine biologists in a variety of specialties have identified sediment runoff as negatively impacting marine mammal habitat and coral reefs throughout the Hawaiian Islands, including in the Waimea Bay area. Studies in other places, such as Molokai, have demonstrated that effective mitigation of sediment runoff starts at the higher elevations, so that runoff quantity and velocity is slowed such that it will minimize the cascading effects when descending to lower elevations. The plans of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources to manage the upper Waimea watershed, e.g., remove invasive species, improve the native forest, and increase native groundcover, conforms to the recommended actions based on currently available science. Accordingly, OSI strongly supports this project and looks forward to the acquisition being completed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Lammers', with a stylized, flowing script.

Marc O. Lammers, Ph.D.

OSI President

Tel: 808-572-900

lammers@oceanwidescience.org



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June 26, 2017

Jonathan Birdsong, Director, Western Regional Office
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
90 New Montgomery St, Suite 1010
San Francisco, California 94105

Aloha Mr. Birdsong,

I am writing on behalf of Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea to express our strong support for the acquisition of the Waimea Native Forest for management by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea (MPW), a local 501(c)(3), was founded over 11 years ago to replenish and sustain the natural and cultural resources of the Pūpūkea and Waimea Ahupua'a through active community stewardship, education, and partnerships. We are particularly focused on the protection of the Pūpūkea Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD) on the North Shore of O'ahu, which spans from Waimea Bay to Sharks Cove. MPW performs weekly community outreach and education at Sharks Cove, educating visitors and locals alike about the MLCD. MPW also spearheaded the successful "Makai Watch" program, a collaborative effort between our community and the DLNR Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement (DOCARE) officers. Makai Watch volunteers are trained to be the eyes and ears of DOCARE so that they may accurately identify and report violations in order to reduce poaching in the MLCD. Our volunteers do everything from conducting biological surveys and fish counts to monitoring human uses and impacts. In addition, to reduce erosion and harmful sedimentation at Sharks Cove, over 300 volunteers have helped us remove invasive weeds and plant thousands of native Hawaiian plants in their place. Finally, MPW hosts frequent beach cleanups. Last year, volunteers removed over 1,500 pounds of trash from the waters, beaches, and shorelines of the MLCD.

Waimea Bay, which is within the MLCD, is unfortunately a "pollution hotspot," especially during heavy rains. Water cascading down the mountains, mixes with soils and other pollutants, creating brown water incidents of varying severity and sometimes toxicity from e-coli and other bacteria. This negatively impacts ocean users and the myriad of species that depend on these nearshores waters for survival. DLNR's plan to restore the upper watershed by removing harmful invasive species and reestablishing native habitat, will reduce erosion and undoubtedly improve the pollution conditions at Waimea Bay. MPW therefore strongly supports this project and humbly requests the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's kokua (help) in making it a reality. Mahalo nui!

Sincerely,

Maxx Phillips, Managing Director