ITEM C-3

From: Aina Akamu

To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Item C3A Kaunamano
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:54:35 AM

Aloha mai kakou,

I am writing to support the Ala Kahakai Trails Association's purchase of lands at Kaunamano in Ka'u, on the island of Hawai'i. These important historical lands are at risk of private development, and the Ala Kahakai Trails Association will be an excellent steward of these lands. Their community engagement efforts are commendable, and I have personally attended several stewardship events and community gatherings at Waikapuna in Ka'u with Ala Kahakai. They make every effort to connect with the community, and to engage the community in the management and preservation of these lands. I am a community member who has deep roots in Ka'u, including being a member of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka'u, Ka'uaha'ao Congregational Church, Hana Laulima 'O Ka'u, and 'O Ka'u Kakou. I am actively engaged in this community, and I will help to ensure that Ala Kahakai Trails Association is a pono steward of these lands.

Mahalo nui loa!

Aloha,

Aina Akamu Na'alehu, Ka'u, Hawai'i ITEM C-3

April 21, 2020

State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Re: Testimony in Support of BLNR Agenda Item C(3)(A)

Legacy Land Grant Award to Ala Kahakai Trail Association, 2,400,000, for the acquisition of approximately 1,363 acres at Kaʻū, Hawaiʻi (Kaunāmano), TMKs (3)

9-5-011:001, 004, 005, 006, and (3) 9-5-012:001

Aloha Chair Case and BLNR Members,

I would like to express my enthusiastic support for the Legacy Land Grant Award to Ala Kahakai Trail Association and the Trust for Public Land to purchase and protect the Kaunāmano property.

The protection of these lands is in our community's interest because it is one of the last remaining pieces in securing the undeveloped coastline that is so highly valued by our community, as expressed in the Ka'ū Community Development Plan (CPD). I was a member of the Ka'ū CPD Steering Committee and protecting Kaunāmano advances the vision and goals our community articulated: "The Ka'ū CDP should honor Ka'ū's unique rural lifestyle, its connection between people and place, and its distinctive Hawaiian cultural heritage. It must plan for the future in ways that: increase economic opportunities through a diverse, resilient, and sustainable economy; and protect and provide reasonable access to natural and recreational resources including the mauka forests, the coastline, open spaces, and park facilities and programs."

Keeping this parcel in agriculture will support the rural economy in Kaʻū and provide the land base for agricultural production that supports the County and State of Hawaiʻi. My family owns and operates Kuahiwi Ranch and we currently graze approximately 400 head of beef cattle on the entire 1,363-acre parcel. We have been ranching on this parcel for the last 15 years and its protection would allow our lease to continue. We have been leasing the adjacent 348-acre Manākaʻa parcel for three years and the neighboring 2,317-acre Waikapuna parcel for the past twenty years. Our ranch recently purchased the ranch lands mauka of Manākaʻa known as Kawala and with the support of TPL and ATA have placed an agricultural conservation easement on that property.

Kuahiwi Ranch specializes in local, free-range, grass-fed beef which contributes to our local food security and self-sufficiency, which have become so critically important during this health crisis. We market about 450,000 lbs of meat annually to grocery stores and restaurants throughout Hawaii including: Whole Foods, Foodland, and Foodland Farms, Volcano House, Town, and Honolulu Burger Co. We also provide secure jobs to eleven employees and our work also supports other food system jobs that enables our beef to get from ranch to table.

We strongly believe in the agricultural, open space, and cultural value of this parcel and the adjoining parcels. We are committed to working together as close partners with the Ala Kahakai

Trail Association and the broader community so that our ranching operations can co-exist and compliment the preservation of both the cultural and natural resources on the property. Kaunāmano, as part of the Kaʻū coastline, is a place that should be preserved for the people of the State and County of Hawaiʻi. The pristine Kaʻū coastline is a treasure that we can steward and a gift that we can pass on to future generations.

Mahalo,

Michelle Galimba, VP

Kuahiwi Ranch

PO Box 24

Nā'ālehu HI 96772

(808)430-4927



April 23, 2020 Sent via email State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BLNR AGENDA ITEM C(3)

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ph: 808.791.0729 126 Queen St., Ste. 306 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 www.hilt.org

BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020, 9:00AM

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

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT), a Hawai'i nonprofit land conservation organization, would like to share its support for the State Legacy Land Conservation Commission recommendations. The State Legacy Land Conservation Program has been critical to the successful protection of countless threatened landscapes from native forests that produce fresh drinking water, to agricultural lands that feed Hawai'i's people, to irreplaceable cultural sites. The volunteer Legacy Land Conservation Commission is comprised of experts in various fields who lend their time and knowledge to rank project applications and recommend funding in a transparent and fair process. Their work is difficult as every year, the pool of applications grows with numerous places of significant natural and cultural resources, but due to a legislative spending ceiling, only \$3.5M is actually available annually. Thankfully, the State Legacy Land Conservation Program, and the Program's applicants have had great success leveraging County, Federal, and private funds streething the State dollars.

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT) is Hawaii's islands-wide land trust that is both a Hawaii 501(c)3 nonprofit, and a nationally accredited land trust. Our mission is to protect and steward the lands that sustain Hawaii, and to perpetuate Hawaiian values by connecting people to 'āina. HILT formed in 2011 from a merger of four island land trusts on Maui, O'ahu, Hawaii Island, and Kauaii. A dedicated Board of Directors representing all major islands guides HILT, supported by a lean and hard working staff. HILT has protected over 21,000 acres across Hawaii, through 7 public preserves owned and stewarded by HILT, 52 conservation easements protecting agricultural, ecological, and cultural resources on private lands, and 5 facilitated conservation transactions. We protect lands that are integral to Hawaiis well-being and character, upholding our kuleana to these lands, and the communities they are in, through thoughtful stewardship that deepens community connection to, and builds reciprocal relationships with, 'āina.

One of the projects the Legacy Land Conservation Commission recommends for funding is the historical and storied cultural lands of Mapulehu, Mana'e, Moloka'i, home of 'Ili'ili'ōpae Heiau, important subsistence trails, native forests in need of restoration and stewardship, and sites of family significance for many Moloka'i 'ohana. There are many partners on the Mapulehu effort - Moloka'i Land Trust is the intended future owner and steward; The Trust for Public Land is the project manager and facilitator; HILT and the County of Maui are the intended future co-holders of the conservation easement to restrict the property (pending County funding approval); the Moloka'i community and lineal descendants of the area are the intended beneficiaries; and the State DLNR, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are potential funders and partners.

HILT supports continued efforts of partners to create a community based stewardship hui to plan for the future management of Mapulehu. As the future owner of Mapulehu once protected, Moloka'i Land Trust had scheduled a Mapulehu community visioning meeting in March, but unfortunately due to the coronavirus health crisis, the meeting need to be cancelled. Moloka'i Land Trust is gathering community input remotely and virtually until it is safe to gather as a community. From our experience, we know how important this community engagement process is to successful stewardship where lineal descendants and the surrounding community are empowered to care for the lands that they know and love. We will support Moloka'i Land Trust as much as we can to see this community engagement process through amidst the unprecedented difficulty of connecting without being able to be together in person.

You have before you an amazing opportunity to protect in perpetuity the sacred cultural landscape of Mapulehu, including the largest heiau on Moloka'i which is also a training ground for kahuna and part of the Hōkūkano-Ualapu'e complex; the Kulahaloa Bell Stone; Wailau Trail which the East Moloka'i community relies upon to connect it to Wailau on the north shore for subsistence and cultural practice; native forested watershed and streams that provide habitat for native birds, bats, and insects; and fertile lands that could once again help to sustainably feed Moloka'i's people. Please approve DOFAW's request to approve grant awards from the Legacy Land Conservation Fund for Fiscal Year 2020 as recommended by the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Mahalo nui loa for your service and the opportunity to submit testimony. We also want to mahalo BLNR and the Legacy Land Conservation Program for your support of HILT's completed conservation efforts and other ongoing conservation efforts, such as our partnership with Ke Ao Hali'i to protect the Hana coastline from Mokae to Maka'alae. We look forward to returning before you next year and in years to come to collaboratively protect our most special places in Hawai'i.

Aloha 'Āina,

Laura H. E. Kaakua, CEO Hawaiian Islands Land Trust

laura@hilt.org, (808) 791-0732

m: Nohea Ka'awa ITEM C-3

From: Nohea Ka'awa
To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support item C3A Kaunamano Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:18:58 PM

Aloha BLNR,

This letter is to support the purchase of Kaunamano by Na Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Lands, item C3A Kaunamano.

We support this aquisition with the understanding that our Ka'u Families will be able to continue to utilize this area for traditional, cultural practices and subsistence gathering as did multiple generations of our ancestors.

Aside from gathering, this special place is where our 'Iwi Kupuna are buried so we naturally return to this space to Malama that Kuleana.

We have mo'olelo that originate from this wahi and we go there to connect and to foster our relationship to place, Kaunamano feeds us spiritually.

It is understood that with this purchase, our Ka'u Community, especially those with genealogical ties, will be able to assist with stewardship of this 'Aina. I support that idea and am here along with my 'Ohana to kokua.

Mahalo for your time in considering my support to this purchase, please reach out to me directly if you have any questions.

me ka ha'aha'a, Nohealani Ka'awa (808)333-7497 PO Box 1001 Na'alehu, Hawai'i. 96772

ITEM C-3

From: jeanette kaniho
To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] No more lands for Ala Kahakai Trails

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:21:38 PM

Hello BLNR Chair Persons;

My name is Thomas Dean Kaniho, born and raised in Ka'u. My blood lines are here in Ka'u. After graduating from Ka'u High School, I worked for C. Brewer driving cane truck. I went to work for the school I graduated from, as a head custodian and worked for 35 years there before retiring. I ranched during that time and after retirement I became a full time rancher. I have worked hard and saved. My wife and I recently bought land here and it was covered in noxious weeds. The land had been previously bull dozed in the late 60's and 70's by C. Brewer. We did get a federal grant to help and have to follow guidelines to clean this land and we are assigned a conservationist. My dream is to get the land back in pristine shape and hopefully put cattle on it. We were given permission to start and we started cleaning the christmas berry trees off. We were instructed to stop through SHPD. Now this all happened in December. We found a rock wall that borders DHHL land and my land. I ran a fence around the wall to protect it and it involves 2-3 acres of land. Both my wife and I feel this is best to not disturb this area. I don't know anyone that would give up 2-3 acres of land like we did to protect a wall that we were given permission to go ahead and clear!! The director of Ala Kahakai Trails, Keoni Fox, threatened us and said nothing will be signed off on our land unless he gets permission to go onto our lands. My question is WHY? Why would a none resident of Ka'u, a person born in California, and raised on another island have the right to end my quest of bettering myself. By restoring land that C. Brewer previously bull dozed with no thought to preserving the area. I have talked to many other people here in Ka'u and we are requesting that no more lands be put into Ala Kahakai Trails so called hands. Its not right that they can dictate and control lands they never paid for and in fact the Waikapuna Lands are paid for by us! The tax payers of Ka'u! And they allow none to enter those lands that many deemed necessary to survive. Many residents have fished that area and now are told its KAPU! Keeping people off of land that they nurtured, lived and died on! I find this shameful.

Thomas Dean Kaniho 65 years a Ka'u Resident

Hello BLNR Chair persons;

I am the wife of Thomas Dean Kaniho. I have been a resident here in Ka'u since the late 1980's. I too worked at the schools here and recently retired as a Sped EA, after 29 years of DOE Employment from Ka'u High School. My youngest son graduated from Kamahameha School, Kea'au. My husband and many families like his grew up here and ran the trails and roads of Ka'u. They ate at many different houses as it wasn't unusually for families to help out other families in a time of need. He has watched things change and was here when C. Brewer came and when they left. This left many families depending on hunting and fishing. I too am disheartened with Ala Kahakai Trails. I once asks the director why he was involving himself in our quest to restore land, and why if his job was to protect coastal land, why he wasn't helping fix Kalae and all the desecration of the burial lands down there. Right now the land is shuttled with tourist that are loaded in trucks and taken into Green Sands, the dirt bikes have torn up all the historical lands there. It so covered with opala and toilet tissue, its a crying shame what has happened. So maybe you can ask Keoni Fox why he didn't make that priority, rather than stopping a Hawaiian family trying to improve their lands. Please direct Ala Kahakai Trails to do what they should be doing and not to stop people on their own lands from living and breathing and improving lands for the children to come. Thank you for your time

Jeanette (Tissy) Kaniho

From: Jamie Kawauchi
To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Very Strong Opposition

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 4:23:24 PM

April 22, 2020

Suzanne D. Case, BLNR Chair Christopher Yuen, Hawai'i Island James A. Gomes, Maui Thomas O'o, Kaua'i Samuel "Ohu" Gon III, O'ahu Vernon Char, At-Large Wesley "Kalei" Yoon, At-Large

Aloha mai e kakou,

My husband, David Kawauchi and I, Jamie Kawauchi are residents of Kahilipali Iki, Ka'u for 48 years. My side of the family resided in this moku from the time of Keawe'ikekahiali'iokamoku through his son Kalanimuiamamao to his son Kalaniopu'u then his cousin Kaiakea's son PaleaNui, his son Palea Iki, followed by his son Joseph Kaolulo and his daughter Mary KekaikapuaowahineaukaioKaahumanu Kaolulo Kahale Sing. Together, we are very strongly opposed and to the granting of the Federal - State (Hawai'i) LAND CONSERVATION FUND, for the Fiscal Year 2020 and highly recommend denial to the following:

Per, "BLNR Land Board Meeting April 24, 2020"

Page 2; Section C; Subsection 3; Paragraph A and D.

"A. Ala Kahakai Trail Association, \$2,400,000, for the acquisition of approximately 1,363 acres at Ka'u, Hawai'i (Kaunamano), Tax Map Key Numbers: (3) 9-5-011:001, :004, :005, and :006, and (3) 9-5-012:001.

D. Ala Kahakai Trail Association, \$875,000, for the acquisition of approximately 348 acres at Ka'u, Hawai'i (Manaka'a Fishing Village), Tax Map Key Number: (3) 9-5-010:026."

Ka'u adheres by traditional Hawaiian protocols till today and when a major undertaking arises, we consult with our na Kupuna for advice and consultation. Many of us believe in giving this respect to our ancestors as it is with great fortune our aina has been preserved from their mana and the aloha we give back by working together for the betterment of the future generations and other kanaka that come to live among us. "Mama Ka'u", is a living force that protects us and provides each of us the health and nutritional sustainability from mauka to makai. Freedom to gather, freedom to hunt, enjoy the ocean, which our na Kupuna taught us to malama aina - kai and share the many bountiful resources for hundreds of years.

Restricted for years we have had our mauka lands fenced and gated, then followed by Ala Kahakai Trails Association who are from other moku (s) that now have now taken over with

the same fenced and gated barriers preventing access except with their chose and pick application who may utilize a so-called Conservation Easement for Hawai'i County, as a result of our island's 2% taxes PONC funds.

Mahalo nui for consideration and understanding!

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

David and Jamie Kawauchi POB 573 Na'alehu, HI 96772 808 937-2285

	thing happening again we don't deserve that.
	thing happening again, we don't deserve that. Please give great ansideration for your decision. mahalo for your time and may akua be with each and every one of your
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	will peel and oversione of war-
	with each wind only good of
	Aléha, Jessie Ke
	Jesse Re
	Please Contact me it you have any questions
	Please Contact me it you have any questions, my Cell No. (808) 895-1573
+ * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	
S. C. Land	

From: Michael Konowicz
To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for 4/24/20 BLNR Hearing

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:22:34 PM

Aloha--

I'm writing with regards to your approval process for granting funds from the Land Conservation Fund as part of the Fiscal Year 2020 Legacy Land Conservation Program.

Specifically, I'm concerned about the large fund of \$2.4million that could be granted to the Ala Kahaki Trail Association for the acquisition of 1,363 acres in Ka'u. Because of the size and the scope of this parcel, I ask that the board postpone any grant allocation with regards to this specific transaction until more details are known.

While the Ala Kahaki Trail Association has a website, they haven't been crystal clear nor public with their intentions for this very large acquisition in Ka'u. Beyond simply maintaining a "trail", details about what will be done with the parcel are missing: how will public access be made possible, what will be done specifically to preserve and maintain the coastline and adjacent land, and what will be done to promote conservation of the land? How will the parcel be maintained and who will be responsible for maintaining it beyond its purchase?

As a resident of Hawaii and as a land owner in Ka'u, it would be helpful for there to be more information, more dialog, and more public interaction with stakeholders of the Ala Kahaki Trail Association. While concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic preclude much public dialog about these lands, their potential, and the overall grant allocation for it, I would hope the board pauses on this specific grant until the community can become better informed. With your fiduciary responsibility and your obligation to protect our natural resources, I am sure you'll agree that delaying a decision impacting so many dollars and so many acres has our best interests at heart.

Mahalo for your time.

Michael J. Konowicz

From: charles maguire
To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kaunamano preservation

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 1:35:55 PM

As a Kuleana owner in Paukunui, I'am in support of Kaunamano preservation purchase.

Support C3A Kaunamano.

Charles T. Maguire PO Box 6824 Ocean View, Hi 96737

Sent from my iPad

From: Joel Payne

To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Ala Kahakai Trail Association aguisition

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:31:57 PM

Alaho,

I'm very concerned with the Ala Kahakai Trail Association acquisition of 1363 acres above Green Sands. (Agenda item 3,C,A.)

Typically when "environmental preservation" groups take control of land the first action is to gate everything off and kick everyone out. The Ala Kahakai Trail Association has not been clear and forthcoming in their plans. I've been all over their website and it's just not there. This alone is a significant problem.

As someone who enjoys exploring our fine island -- often in a Jeep -- yet believes in both responsibility and the principles of "tread lightly" I am opposed to this acquisition. I believe it's unnecessary. This is not an easy to access area to access and some tire ruts are actually useful in discouraging stock rental 4x4s from overwhelming the area. It's doing fine as is.

This grant and the corresponding acquisition seem in opposition to Hawaii's value that the beach and ocean belong to the people. Public land which cannot be used or enjoyed is a travesty. I do not believe it's appropriate to award grants to groups which do not clearly state their intent. Everything I see on the Ala Kahakai Trail Associateion website seems to indicate "locals only" "foot traffic only" which is a concern. The spirit of Aloha is bigger than this narrow vision.

Mahalo for your consideration, Joel Payne

-Homeowner in Waimea



April 22, 2020

Sent via email
State of Hawai'i
Board of Land and Natural Resources
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Re: Testimony in Support of BLNR Agenda Item C(3)(A)

Legacy Land Grant Award to Ala Kahakai Trail Association, \$2,400,000, for the acquisition of approximately 1,363 acres at Kaʻū, Hawaiʻi (Kaunāmano), TMKs (3) 9-5-011:001, 004, 005, 006, and (3) 9-5-012:001

Aloha Chair Case and Members of the Board,

The Trust for Public Land is a non-profit land conservation organization and our mission is to protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. For over 41 years we've worked to protect over 53,000 acres and 42 special places throughout Hawai'i. Our Aloha 'Āina Program protects lands that are culturally and historically important to Native Hawaiian communities and returns these lands to Native Hawaiian organizations for community and cultural stewardship.

In September 2019, the Legacy Land Conservation Commission ranked Kaunāmano number 1 for fiscal year 2020 funding. For over 8 years, The Trust for Public Land has been working closely with Ka'ū community organizations, Native Hawaiian lineal descendants, and the Ala Kahakai Trail Association to purchase and protect Kaunāmano. A longstanding goal of the Ka'ū community is to permanently preserve its beloved coast to honor Ka'ū's ancestors and allow all current and future generations to be nourished by these coastal lands. Kaunāmano is part of a landscape level effort to protect the Ka'ū coast. We helped to protect Waikapuna (2,317 acres) conserved with County and State funds and Kāwala (803 acres) which will be kept in agriculture and cultural preservation through a privately funded conservation easement. We are currently working to conserve Manāka'a Fishing Village (348 acres) and Kiolaka'a (1,841 acres). Together this would protect a 6,600 acre cultural and natural landscape, connected by over 6 miles of the Ala Kahakai Trail.

Kaunāmano means "where thousands are settled" telling of the large population that once lived here. Protecting Kaunāmano would preserve an intact cultural landscape with 444 cultural sites including its two villages at Pā'ula and Pauku, house sites, heiau (temples), burial sites, a lua training area, petroglyphs, rare pictographs and extensive lava tube networks including the famous cave of Puhi'ula with its rock-lined anchialine pool filled with two varieties of 'ōpae'ula.

The Kaunāmano Property includes 3 miles of coastline. Its protection will conserve immense marine and coastal resources including a tidepool complex, crystal clear rocky coves, and sea caves. The nearshore area is home to migrating humpback whales, dolphins, endangered monk seals and Hawksbill turtles, threatened green sea turtles, and an abundance of diverse fish, limu, and shellfish populations. Many in the Ka'ū community still rely on these diverse marine resources for subsistence fishing and gathering.

Kaunāmano's coastal lands and the Māniania Pali provide a protected habitat for native coastal vegetation including kīpūkai (seaside heliotrope), 'ilima, 'ākulikuli (purslane), Māniania (grass), mau'u (sedge), kauna'oa (native dodder), nehe, 'uhaloa, pā'ū o Hi'iaka, and naupaka kahakai. Native seabirds such as noio (black noddies) and koa'e kea (white tailed tropic birds) also nest along the cliffs while 'ūlili (wandering tattlers) and kōlea (Pacific golden plover) are found near the shore.

For 15 years Kuahiwi Ranch has leased the Kaunāmano property for grazing 400 head of cattle and its protection would allow their lease to continue. These lands provide some of the best grazing lands in Kaʻū because they include almost 200 acres of Pāhala Ash soil. Kuahiwi Ranch is owned and operated by three generations of the Galimba family. The Ranch specializes in locally produced, free-range, grass-fed beef which contributes to Hawai'i's food security and self-sufficiency. Protecting these unique pasture lands would provide agricultural jobs for this rural community.

Attached are 175 signatures from community members (including 9 keiki) who support the protection of Kaunāmano and five letters of support from our partners: Hoʻomalu Kaʻū, Huliauapaʻa, The Nature Conservancy, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Representative Richard Creagan.

The BLNR has a tremendous opportunity to protect and preserve Kaunāmano where natural, cultural, and agricultural resources will be forever conserved and stewarded by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association in partnership with the Ka'ū community.

The State's Legacy Land Conservation Program not only conserves precious cultural and natural resources, but plays a critical role in diversifying our economy, supporting jobs in agriculture and conservation and enhancing our food security, making Hawai'i more resilient in future economic downturns.

Please approve DOFAW's request to approve grant awards from the Legacy Land Conservation Fund for Fiscal Year 2020 as recommended by the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Mahalo for your support.

Sincerely,

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi Aloha 'Āina Project Manager

The Trust for Public Land



`Ōhi`a Lehua

DIRECTORS

WENDY SCOTT-VANCE PRESIDENT

CHARMAINE KEANU VICE PRESIDENT

KEONI FOX SECRETARY/TREASURER

> BLOSSOM DE SILVA DIRECTOR

WILLIAM IAUKEA DIRECTOR

LEHUA LOPEZ-MAU DIRECTOR

Ho'omalu Ka'u

August 29, 2019

The Trust for Public Land c/o Reyna Ramolete Hayashi 1003 Bishop St., Suite 740 Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kaunāmano in Ka'ū, Hawai'i, TMKs: (3) 9-5-011:001, (3)9-5-011:004, (3)9-5-011:005, (3)9-5-011:006, (3)9-5-012:001.

To whom it may concern,

Ho'omalu Ka'u is a community based 501(c)3 based in Na'alehu, Ka'u, Hawai'i Island. Our mission is to "perpetuate, protect and conserve the land, culture, knowledge and history of Ka'u and its people." We are committed to protecting the archeological, cultural, and historical treasures of the Ka'u District as well as the pristine, undeveloped environmental ecosystems in Ka'u's 922 square miles.

The Ka'u Community Development Plan makes it clear that this community supports the preservation of the 80 undeveloped miles of Ka'u coastline. Ho'omalu Ka'ū strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association's efforts to purchase and protect Kaunāmano in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island.

Kaunāmano's ancient fishing village of Pā'ula includes the famous rock paved anchialine pool of Puhi'ula cave. The property includes over four miles of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail and 444 archaeological sites including heiau, refuge caves and lava tubes with petroglyphs and pictographs, a lua training area, house sites, and burials. Kaunāmano provides extensive coastal habitat for native plants, seabirds and marine species including humpback whales and hawksbill and green sea turtles. The lush mauka pasture lands are leased by Kuahiwi Ranch for raising local, grass fed beef, perpetuating Ka'ū's paniolo traditions and supporting the local economy.

The cultural and spiritual connections to places throughout Kaunāmano are still important to Native Hawaiian and local families. This connection of nature and culture is inseparable, he pilina wehena 'ole, and serves to link us to wahi pana (storied places) and Hawai'i's past.

The Ka'u district retains the natural resources that supported thousands of people for millennia, and it is still the land and sea bank that can sustain generations to

come. Because this area has the seeds for future sustainability (agriculture, food, medicine, tools, building materials and spiritual connection) the preservation of this land and shoreline is vital.

We sometimes forget the value of unspoiled beauty, wildlife, solitude and spiritual renewal. Kaunāmano offer us all of these things. Its protection in perpetuity, is important for the people and the future of Hawai'i nei.

Mahalo nui,

Wendy Scott-Vance, President , Ho'omalu Ka'ū The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Program 923 Nu'uanu Avenue Honolulu, HI 96817 Tel (808) 537-4508 Fax (808) 545-2019 nature.org/hawaii

August 29, 2019

The Trust for Public Land c/o Reyna Ramolete Hayashi 1003 Bishop St., Suite 740 Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kaunāmano in Ka'ū, Hawai'i, TMKs: (3)9-5-011:001, (3)9-5-011:004, (3)9-5-011:005, (3)9-5-011:006, (3)9-5-012:001.

The Nature Conservancy's Hawai'i Program is in strong support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's efforts to purchase and protect Kaunāmano in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island. Ala Kahakai Trail Association's mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai'i's past, present and future.

The acquisition of Kaunāmano will protect the area from development for the benefit of native anchialine pond communities, coastal strands of endangered plants, endangered Hawaiian monk seal habitat, and significant archaeological sites, petroglyphs, and portions of the historic Ala Kahakai Trail. This aligns closely with and supports TNC's strategy in purchasing and managing our nearby Kamehame Beach Preserve for species preservation and to prevent development, effluent and artificial light in the critical nearshore areas of Ka'ū, which are rich in marine biomass.

Founded in 1951, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. TNC's Hawai'i Program has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 preserves and work in 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian islands.

TNC's Ka'ū Forest Preserve is part of the largest and most intact expanse of native forest in the state and featuring closed-canopy *koa* and 'ōhi'a sheltering a lush understory of native *uluhe* and hāpu'u tree ferns, rare plants and endangered forest birds. Also, our coastal Kamehame Beach Preserve is a critically important nesting site for the endangered hawksbill turtle and a refuge for the threatened green sea turtle whose survival depends upon undisturbed nesting sites and healthy coral reefs primarily on Hawai'i island.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Ka'ū community's long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate our rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for our community which still relies on subsistence fishing, farming, and gathering.

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The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Program September 4, 2019 Page 2

Conserving this landscape will perpetuate cultural access for descendants and recreational access for travelers along the ancient trail allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Kaʻū's ancestors.

Mahalo, Shalan Crysdale Director, Hawai'i Island Forest Program The Nature Conservancy (808) 443 5413 scrysdale@tnc.org



August 29, 2019

The Trust for Public Land c/o Reyna Ramolete Hayashi 1003 Bishop St., Suite 740 Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kaunāmano in Kaʿū, Hawaiʿi, TMKs: (3)9-5-011:001, (3)9-5-011:004, (3)9-5-011:005, (3)9-5-011:006, (3)9-5-012:001.

Huliauapa'a strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land's efforts to help the Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Kaunāmano. Ala Kahakai Trail Association's mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai'i's past, present and future.

Protection of the Kaʻū coastline has been a long standing goal of the community. Kaunāmano's ancient fishing village of Pāʻula includes the famous rock paved anchialine pool of Puhiʻula cave. The property includes over four miles of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail and 444 archaeological sites including heiau, refuge caves and lava tubes with petroglyphs and pictographs, a lua training area, house sites, and burials. Kaunāmano provides extensive coastal habitat for native plants, seabirds and marine species including humpback whales and hawksbill and green sea turtles. The lush mauka pasture lands are leased by Kuahiwi Ranch for raising local, grass fed beef, perpetuating Kaʻū's paniolo traditions and supporting the local economy.

Protecting Kaunāmano from development would ensure continued access to this coastline for subsistence fishing and cattle ranching, cultural access for descendants, and recreational access for travelers along the ancient ala loa (Ala Kahakai Trail) so future generations can walk in the footsteps of their ancestors.

Huliauapa'a's vision is wahi kupuna thriving through Hawaiian self-determination. Our mission is to grow Hawai'i's communities through culturally based dimensions of innovative learning, leadership development and collaborative networking in wahi kūpuna stewardship. We are a Native Hawaiian non-profit organization which seeks to educate haumāna and communities on the appropriate stewardship of wahi kūpuna. Huliauapa'a members, including resource managers, researchers, educators, cultural practitioners, and students, share a unifying commitment and belief: to protect, preserve, and perpetuate Hawai'is cultural and natural resources through educational opportunities, community outreach, and advocacy. Our organization is intent on transforming Cultural Resource Management (CRM) in Hawai'i, by integrating 'Ōiwi perspectives into our every-day operations and activities and striving to give



Hawaiians and kama'āina a voice and a meaningful role in managing our own resources.

Huliauapa'a provides educational programs, such as the Wahi Kūpuna Internship Program (WKIP), which is a summer internship for undergraduate students in the fields of Anthropology, Archaeology, Hawaiian Studies, and related fields. The program targets Native Hawaiian and kama'āina students to increase their representation in Hawai'i's Cultural Resource Management (CRM) field by providing them cultural and scientific mentoring, professional development, education, and applied field experiences. The program aims to develop and support the next generation of cultural resource managers in Hawai'i by offering a learning environment that bridges the worldviews of culture and science and by encouraging the interns to respect, appreciate, and utilize their cultural values, beliefs, and practices while conducting archaeological research. Kaunāmano, Ka'ū would serve to be an ideal learning environment and the perfect educational grounds for training our youth and communities in the tools of cultural resource management and provide a perfect setting to further connect our people to our 'āina and wahi pana.

Huliauapa'a ran our annual Wahi Kupuna Internship Program in Ka'ū in 2014 and we were able to visit the Ka'ū coast with Keoni Fox and his 'ohana, and it was an inspirational experience for our students and staff. To see first hand that there are still intact cultural landscapes in our islands that provide a direct connection to our kūpuna was something that many of us have not experienced before. These types of settings are extremely important to preserve to teach our keiki and lāhui how our kūpuna were able to utilize the natural, cultural, and marine resources to live sustainably in these islands. There are many lessons that we can learn today from how our ancestors understood and utilized our unique environments, and Kaunāmano is one of those cultural landscapes that should be preserved and protected for these special opportunities in the future.

Mahalo for your support,

Kelley L. Uyeoka Executive Director Huliauapa'a

kelley@huliauapaa.org www.huliauapaa.org



STATE OF HAWAI'I OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

560 N. NIMITZ HWY., SUITE 200 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96817

June 17, 2019

HRD19-8931

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi Aloha 'Āina Project Manager The Trust for Public Land 1003 Bishop Street Pauahi Tower, Suite 740 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re:

Letter of Support for the Acquisition and Protection of Kaunāmano and Manāka'a Fishing

Village of the Ka'ū Coast

Kaunāmano Ahupua'a, Ka'ū Moku, Hawai'i Mokupuni

Tax Map Keys: (3) 9-5-012:001; and, 9-5-011:001, 004, 005, 006

Aloha e Ms. Hayashi:

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is writing in **support** of the Trust for Public Land's (TPL) efforts to acquire agricultural and conservation lands along the Ka'ū coast for the purposes of preservation and restoration. OHA understands that TPL is currently seeking funding for these acquisitions from the County of Hawai'i Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources (PONC) Fund, the State of Hawai'i Legacy Land Conservation Fund, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Thus, TPL will meet with the PONC Commission on July 8, as well as submit an application to the Legacy Land Conservation fund in July. OHA further understands that TPL is closely partnered with the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA),¹ who will primarily implement long-term stewardship of the area if acquisition is successful. OHA has previously provided support for similar TPL acquisitions in other areas along the Ka'ū coast. The current proposed acquisitions are aligned with a greater Ka'ū community effort to protect the entire 80 mile Ka'ū coast.

OHA is the constitutionally recognized body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians. As such, OHA's mission is to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians by focusing our efforts on six strategic priorities: 'āina (land and water), mo'omeheu (culture), ho'okahuawaiwai (economic self-sufficiency), ho'ona'auao (education), ea (governance), and mauli ola (health). By maintaining a connection to the past through the preservation of 'āina, it is OHA's hope that Native Hawaiians will participate in and benefit from responsible 'āina

¹ Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) is a descendant led non-profit organization that provides community assistance for trail management and planning. The ATA helps ensure that the Ala Kahakai Trail is well-connected to the community and that Hawaiian values and principles are in place and practiced.

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi June 17, 2019 Page 2

stewardship. Previously, OHA has supported many efforts throughout the state that promote the preservation of agricultural and conservation lands threatened by rezoning and unnecessary development. OHA values the protection of such prime lands as a potential vehicle for food self-sufficiency and a means for reconnecting people with the 'āina through responsible stewardship.

The lands of Kaunāmano and Manāka'a contain innumerable cultural resources important to the preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian culture. This area of the Ka'ū coast contains many still-intact fishing villages, historic trails, pristine cultural sites, natural springs, burial sites, petroglyphs, lava tubes, and caves that together maintain a strong cultural landscape. Native Hawaiians today continue to use this area for traditional cultural practices and educational purposes. Mo'olelo of this area describe thriving fishing villages and the practice of lua (traditional Hawaiian martial art). Additionally, it is believed that the caves and underground lava tubes served as strategic spots to defend the area and conceal armies in times of war.

The Kaʻū coast is also home to a variety of endangered Hawaiian flora and fauna. 80% to 90% of the honuʻea (hawksbill sea turtle) nest along the Kaʻū coast. The honu (green sea turtles), ʻīlioholoikauaua (Hawaiian monk seals), and koholā (humpback whales) depend on the clean waters off Kaunāmano. Native coastal plants blanket the shoreline, while pueo (Hawaiian short-eared owl), migratory birds, and native sea and shorebirds live along Kaunāmano's rocky shorelines.

OHA understands and supports TPL's and ATA's efforts to protect the natural and cultural resources of Ka'ū for present and future generations. As both TPL and ATA aim to protect existing cultural resources and seek to reconnect people to the 'āina through responsible stewardship, OHA views their overall efforts as being in concert with our own mission and strategic plan. OHA notes that the preservation of the parcels in question are further aligned with the October 2017 Ka'ū Community Development Plan which seeks to protect and enhance natural resources. TPL's and ATA's efforts to acquire these lands would effectively eliminate potential undesired development of the Ka'ū coast and help the Ka'ū community achieve their dream of one day protecting all of the Ka'ū coast.

Accordingly, OHA supports TPL's and ATA's efforts to acquire these lands and thereby enable our beneficiaries and the Ka'ū community to preserve, practice, and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture; mālama Ka'ū's resources and sites; and, contribute to the future security and self-sufficiency of our islands. Should you have any questions, please contact OHA's Lead Compliance Specialist, Kamakana C. Ferreira, at (808) 594-0227, or by email at kamakanaf@oha.org.

'O wau iho nō me ka 'oia 'i'o,

Kamana'opono M. Crabbe, Ph.D.

Ka Pouhana, Chief Executive Officer

Lancresques Calle

KC:kf



STATE OF HAWAII STATE CAPITOL HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

October 14, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Speaker of the House Scott K. Saiki

From: Representative Richard P. Creagan

Chair, House Committee on Agriculture

RE: Letter in Support of Legacy Land Conservation Funding to Protect and Acquire

Kaunāmano, Kiolaka'a, and Manāka'a in Ka'ū, Hawai'i

I am writing to express my strong support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's and Trust for Public Land's efforts to purchase and protect Kaunāmano, Kiolaka'a, and Manāka'a in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island. Ala Kahakai Trail Association's mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai'i's past, present and future.

Kaunāmano's ancient fishing village of Pā'ula includes the famous rock paved anchialine pool of Puhi'ula cave. The property includes over four miles of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail and 444 archaeological sites including heiau, refuge caves and lava tubes with petroglyphs and pictographs, a lua training area, house sites, and burials. Kaunāmano provides extensive coastal habitat for native plants, seabirds and marine life including humpback whales and hawksbill and green sea turtles. The lush mauka pasture lands are leased by Kuahiwi Ranch for raising local, grass fed beef, supporting the local, agricultural economy.

Kiolaka'a is a 1,836-acre property south of Waiohinu Town that includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka'alu'alu Bay, and portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system. The cave system features a fortress with an elevated defensive wall, built during the wars with Kamehameha. Other cultural sites include heiau, habitation sites, petroglyphs, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teems with 'ōpae 'ula. The mauka lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka'ū's paniolo traditions.

Manāka'a's breathtaking Maniania Pali rises over 200 feet providing protection for nesting sea birds and native coastal plants. Cultural resources include 22 documented sites such as heiau, burials, lava tube habitation sites, underground springs, over one mile of the Ala Kahakai

National Historic Trail, two mauka-makai trails, and the remains of Manāka'a Fishing Village. These lands provide some of the best cattle grazing lands in Ka'ū, leased by Kuahiwi Ranch.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Ka'ū community's long standing goal of protecting their beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate their rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for their community which still relies on subsistence fishing, farming, and gathering. Conserving this landscape will perpetuate cultural access for descendants and recreational access for travelers along the ancient trail allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka'ū's ancestors.

I wholeheartedly support the Legacy Land Conservation Commission's recommendations to provide land acquisition funding for the conservation of Kaunāmano, Kiolaka'a, and Manāka'a.

Mappe, L'houl



of Kāwala) and Kaunāmano in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island. — PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY --Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land to help our Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Manāka'a Fishing Village (the makai lands We, the undersigned, support the hui of Ka'ū families, community members, and organizations who are working with the nonprofits Ala Kahakai

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	Mails Romakahi	Ocean View		864 498 3116 mailekaleicha@gmailicom



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Please return to Reyna Ramolete Hayashi, The Trust for Public Land, 1003 Bishop St. 740, Honolulu, HI 96813 or reyna.ramolete@tpl.org



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Please return to Reyna Ramolete Hayashi, The Trust for Public Land, 1003 Bishop St. 740, Honolulu, HI 96813 or reyna.ramolete@tpl.org



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Please return to Reyna/Ramolete Hayashi, The Trust for Public Land, 1003 Bishop St.	Trust for Public Land, 1003 Bishop St	. 740, Honolulu, HI 96813 or reyna.ramolete@tpl.org	r reyna.ramolete@tpl.org



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EMAIL	PHONE	WHAT TOWN DO YOU LIVE IN?	NAME

Please return to Reyna Ramolete Hayashi, The Trust for Public Land, 1003 Bishop St. 740, Honolulu, HI 96813 or reyna.ramolete@tøl.org



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Please return to Reyna Ramolete Hayashi, The Trust for Public Land, 1003 Bishop St. 740, Honolulu, HI 96813 or reyna.ramolete@tpl.org



of Kāwala) and Kaunāmano in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island. - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY --Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land to help our Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Manāka'a Fishing Village (the makai lands We, the undersigned, support the hui of Ka'ū families, community members, and organizations who are working with the nonprofits Ala Kahakai

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Community Statement to Protect Manāka'a Fishing Village and Kaunāmano in Ka'ū



of Kāwala) and Kaunāmano in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island. - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY --Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land to help our Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Manāka'a Fishing Village (the makai lands We, the undersigned, support the hui of Ka'ū families, community members, and organizations who are working with the nonprofits Ala Kahakai

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WHAT TOWN DO YOU LIVE IN?
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of Kāwala) and Kaunāmano in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island. - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY --We, the undersigned, support the hui of Ka'ū families, community members, and organizations who are working with the nonprofits Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land to help our Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Manāka'a Fishing Village (the makai lands

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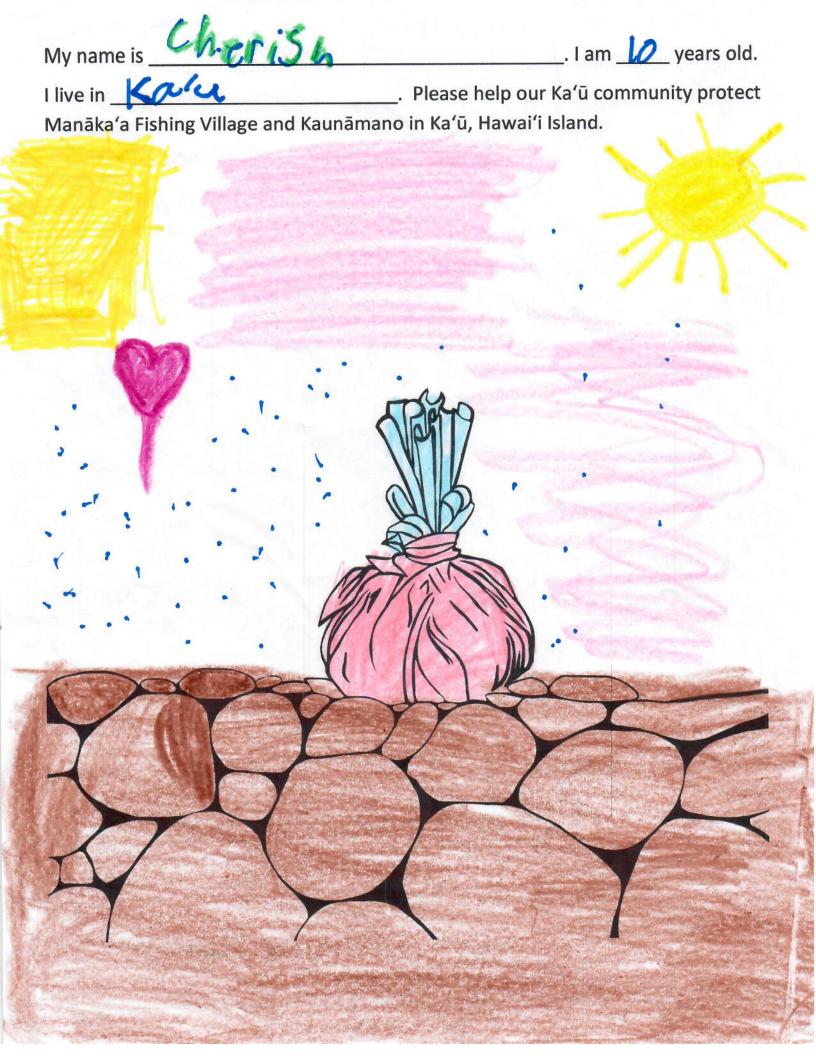
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Rosita Wungpalar	11	928-8029	NONE
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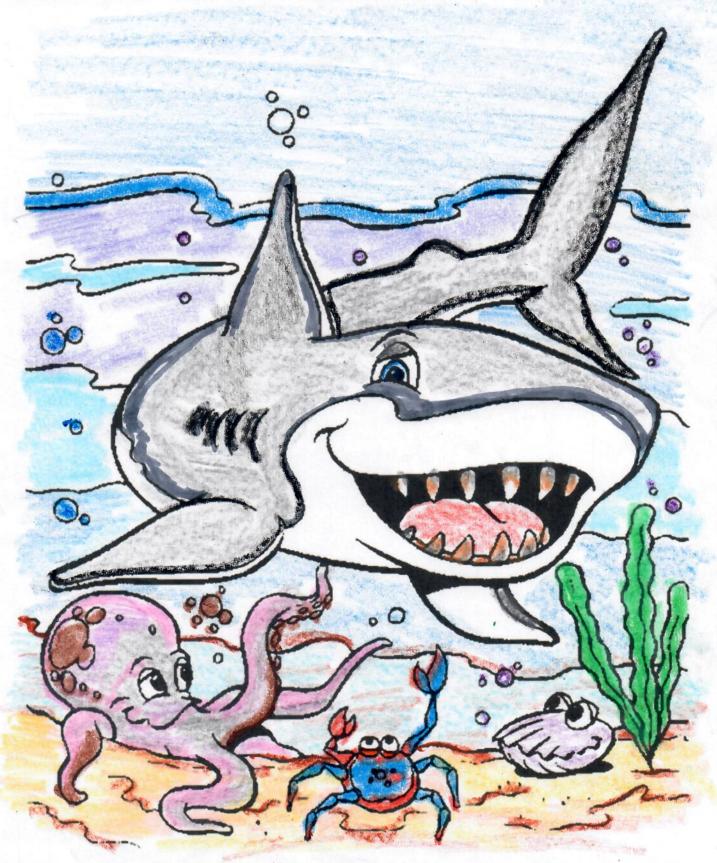


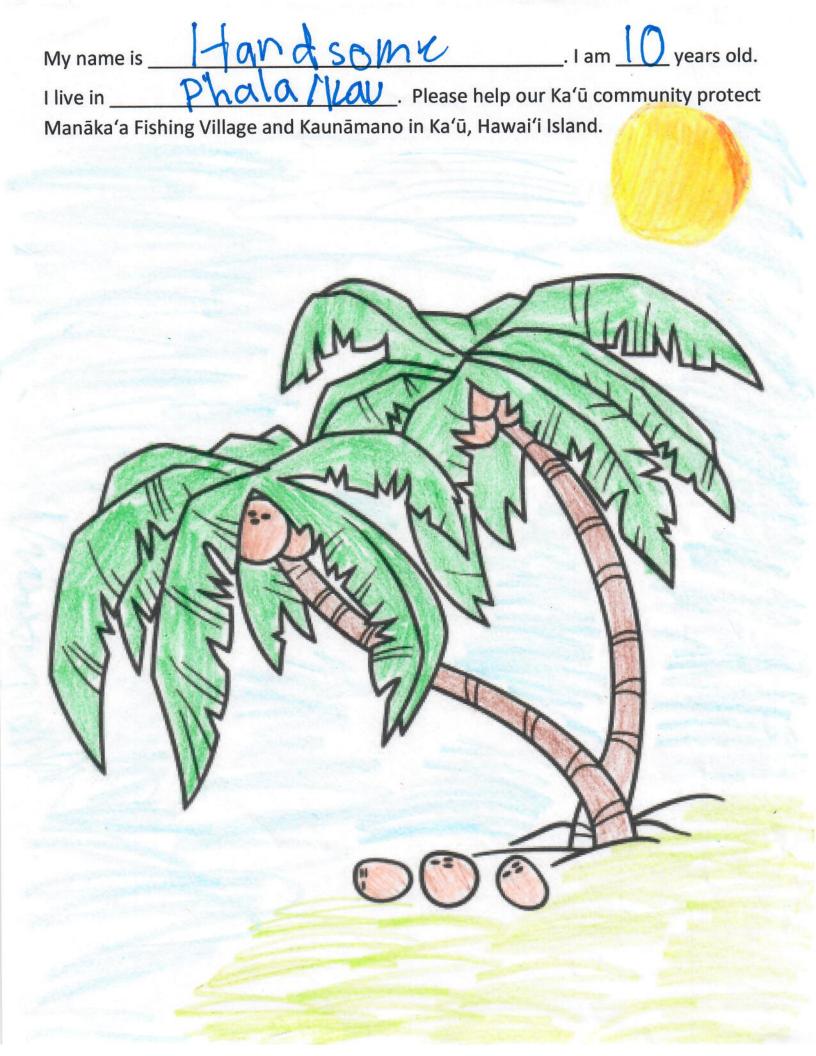


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My name is _______. I am _______. I am _______. I am _______. I am _______. Please help our Ka'ū community protect

Manāka'a Fishing Village and Kaunāmano in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island.







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I live in	Pahala	Please help our Ka'ū community protect
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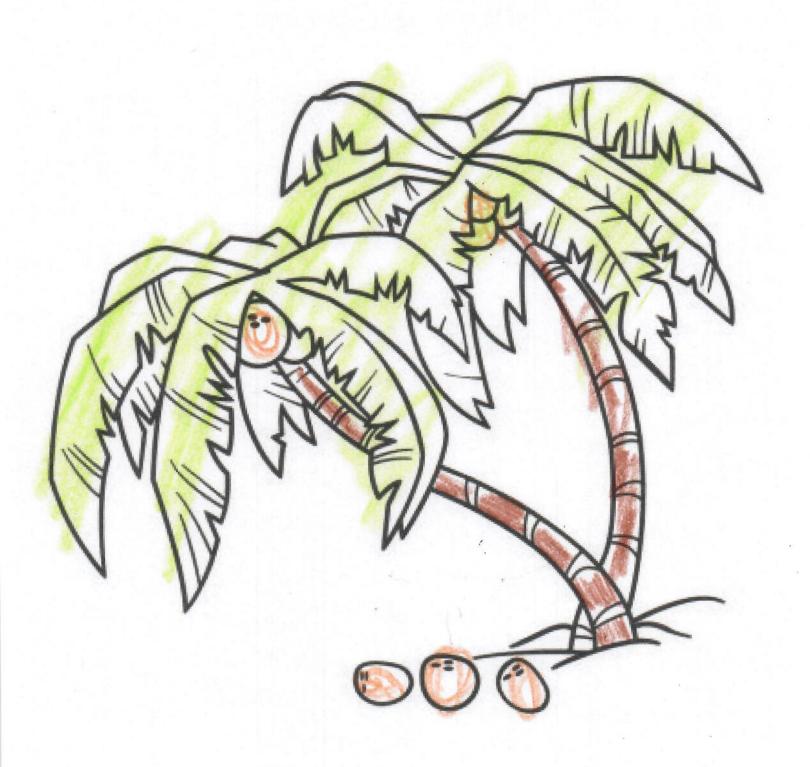
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My name is _______. I am _______ years old.

I live in _______. Please help our Ka'ū community protect

Manāka'a Fishing Village and Kaunāmano in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island.



My name is Michaela Schubert . I am 10 years old.

I live in <u>Hilo, Hawaii 20 Kuhilani</u> Please help our Ka'ū community protect Manāka'a Fishing Village and Kaunāmano in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island.



My name is _______. I am ________ years old.

I live in ________. Please help our Ka'ū community protect

Manāka'a Fishing Village and Kaunāmano in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island.



From: Joel Velez

To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:15:42 AM

I strongly oppose Ala Kahakai Trails association receiving funding. ...Strongly oppose!!!

From: Rachel Velez

To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ala Kahakai Trails Association Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:37:14 AM

I submitted a testimony earlier opposing Ala Kahakai Trails Association....please withdraw my testimony and replace with this...

To whom it may concern:

As a resident of Ka'u, born and raised I we strongly oppose development of our district of Ka'u. Ka'u is precious to us because many of us have ties to these lands dating back to Kamehameha III and patent lands....we have generations upon generations of families that remained in Ka'u to raise our families to malama the aina and to use the aina to sustain and raise our families. Through the years we have watched outsiders come to our aina and take our lands because somewhere along the lines we have been cheated...misled and taken advantage of and our kupuna lost our lands. Hawaii should become like New Zealand where outsiders are not allowed to purchase and acquire lands...we do not support development, subdivisions....etc For what? For the benefit of Ka'u? Or for their own selfish greed? Ka'u is the last frontier....thats why people from all over this island flock here to enjoy her majestic beauty but they do not have the connections that we, the people of Ka'u have for our Ka'u. They cannot possibly understand the importance of our aina...our shorelines....our people because IF they did they would not descerate our lands with their atv and motorbikes....they would not rape our shores of our opihi and our fish. Those that were taught right growing up in Ka'u were taught to respect the aina and respect the Ocean....you take only what you need...not take 20 lobsters....gallons and gallons of opihi and a'ama at one time....you see a bunch of opihi...you take quarter size and up....one or two or three and let the rest grow....you catch uhu...moi...etc....take what you need not be greedy and take it all....and if you go to the ocean and you see and ohana at a spot you wanted to go....show aloha and move on....NEVER EVER GO THERE AND INTRUDE on a family's time unless you were invited....that is common sense....and time and time again we are shown that people DO NOT HAVE common sense or kuleana.

We have to look at many things before we support any development. Is it going to benefit our people in Ka'u? Will we be blocked access to our lands and shorelines? Will the aina be left untouched...prestine and pure as when our Kupuna walked this lands? If not then NO.... KEEP KA'U, KA'U...PROTECT OUR KA'U....

Sincerely, Derrick and Rachel Velez