

Michael P. Victorino
Mayor

Sananda K. Baz
Managing Director



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**SUPPORT REQUEST BY DOFAW FOR APPROVAL TO ACQUIRE THE LANDS AT
KAMEHAMENUI**

Kamehamenui is immediately adjacent to Kula Forest Reserve, one of the most popular forest recreation areas on Maui. The upper elevations of the property contain a native subalpine shrub land important to Hawaii's endangered Nēnē (Hawaiian goose) and 'Ua'u (Hawaiian Petrel).

The County of Maui supports the protection and managed of this property by DOFAW for the conservation of the unique native ecosystem and the expansion of rare plant and animal species habitats. Protection of the property from natural resource threats, including invasive species, will allow the native forest to continue to capture and absorb rain and fog that replenishes our aquifers for generations to come.

This acquisition would provide an additional access point from Kekaulike Avenue to this popular area and could become an extension to the 30.5 mile network of public access trails that currently exist. Protecting over 3,000 acres in Upcountry Maui would allow for enhanced public opportunities for recreation, hunting, hiking, cultural access and education in an area that is at the brink of development.

Malama Pono,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael P. Victorino".

Mayor Mike Victorino

From: Jordan Jokiel
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: Haleakala Ranch's support for DOFAW's acquisition of private lands at Kamehamehenui, Maui.
Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 10:15:58 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Board meeting date: March 8, 2019

Item #: C-1

Subject: Support for DOFAW's acquisition of private lands at Kamehamehenui, Maui.

Members of the Board,

Haleakala Ranch supports the acquisition of private lands by DOFAW at Kamehamehenui, Maui. As an adjacent landowner, acquisition of the parcel by the State of Hawaii further facilitates the Ranch's conservation, watershed protection, and invasive species control efforts. In addition, ownership by the State of this iconic upcountry parcel will help preserve open space, public access, and outdoor recreation by Maui's local community. The Ranch further supports DOFAW's proposed efforts to utilize, to the extent feasible and effective, a managed grazing operation to help suppress fuel loads, invasive species, sequester carbon, and provide other important ecosystem services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Jordan Jokiel
Vice President, Land Manager

Haleakala Ranch Company
529 Kealahoa Avenue • Makawao, HI 96768
Phone: (808) 572-1500 • Fax: (808) 572-7288

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The Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership
3620 Baldwin Ave., Suite 202, Makawao, HI 96768
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Fax (808) 573-1932
www.lhwrp.org

Dept. of Hawaiian Homelands
Dept. of Land & Natural Resources
Haleakalā National Park
Haleakalā Ranch
Ka'ono'ulu Ranch
Kaupō Ranch
Nu'u Mauka Ranch
Thompson Ranch
Ulupalakua Ranch

March 7, 2019

To: Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources

CC: Scott Fretz, DLNR

From: The Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership

Re: ***LHWRP support for item # C-1 on the March 8, 2019 BLNR agenda regarding purchase of 3,277 acre Kamehamehū Forest Reserve Project***

Aloha BLNR board members,

The Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership works cooperatively with public and private landowners to protect and restore over 45,000 acres on the slopes of Haleakalā volcano. DOFAW is a key partner in these efforts, and the opportunity to acquire the private lands at Kamehamehū, Maui provides an exciting opportunity to increase watershed restoration efforts, expand habitat for numerous unique and rare native species, and introduce opportunities for greater inclusion of our communities, schools, and visitors to engage in ecosystem restoration, recreation, environmental education.

Hawai'i's forests, especially in leeward areas, are some of the most imperiled on the planet. The significance of this purchase and the habitat recovery to follow helps to expand our island's resilience against impacts of climate change, extinction, and continued loss of cultural resources, and especially the efforts of LHWRP to restore the lei of native forest around Haleakalā. LHWRP's landowners support the inclusion of this parcel into the Forest Reserve System for the long-term benefit of our communities and natural and cultural heritage.

We look forward to collaborating with the State, ranchers, and community in restoring this landscape should its purchase be approved.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Andrea Buckman
LHWRP Program Manager



March 5, 2019

To: Board of Land and Natural Resources

CC: Scott Fretz, DLNR

From: Maui Conservation Alliance

Re: Support for the purchase of the 3,277 acre Kamehamehenui Forest Project, Kula, Maui

The Maui Conservation Alliance (MCA) supports the proposed purchase of the 3,277 acre Kamehamehenui Forest in Kula, Maui as presented to the Board of Land & Natural Resources (BLNR).

MCA works in close collaboration with multiple federal, private sector, and state conservation partners to preserve and protect the natural resources of our state. The proposed purchase of this parcel in Kula, Maui will provide a range of benefits, from preserving open space, providing access to mauka recreational opportunities and a unique opportunity for the restoration of tropical mesic forest and subalpine ecosystems which could be accessible to the public.

As a cooperative partnership, the MCA works for the long-term protection of Maui's ecosystems, with special attention to native biodiversity and ecosystem services. This parcel meets all of our expectations:

- Kamehamehenui was originally a part of the Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership (LHWRP), one of our MCA members. Restoring this parcel to restoration and protection efforts will achieve the "mauna lei", or the band of forest that once encompassed Haleakalā.
- The upper elevations of Kamehamehenui contain native subalpine shrublands that are important habitat for numerous endangered species, including the 'ua'u, or Hawaiian petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis*), and the nēnē or Hawaiian goose (*Branta sandvicensis*). We appreciate that if acquired, this area would be fenced, and ungulate removal would occur. This would add significantly acreage to the fenced, protected native ecosystems in this area.
- There is a unique opportunity for reforestation in the lower portions of the parcel for ecologically and economically valuable species such as koa (*Acacia koa*) and sandalwood (*Santalum haleakalae* var. *haleakalae*), which can increase habitat for other rare species such as the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat - 'ōpe'ape'a (*Lasurus cinereus semotus*), Maui parrotbill - kiwīkiu (*Pseudonestor xanthophrys*), and the crested honeycreeper - 'ākohekohe (*Palmeria dolei*). Of particular interest, however, is that this parcel is accessible and could be a prime location for using public volunteers or school groups for restoration work, adding to the outreach and educational components of the environmental management proposed.
- Regular weed control missions of this parcel will also help prevent the spread of species between already protected parcels adjoining this land.

This opportunity to open thousands of acres on Maui for public access, native ecosystem restoration and to remove it from potential development is a rare event. We join the other supporters of this project in requesting that the BLNR complete this purchase and protect this land for future generations.

Mahalo,



Sarah McLane Bryan, Chairperson

Maui Conservation Alliance

www.mauiconservationalliance.org

Note: this communication may not represent the individual view or endorsement of all partners, due to the limited time available for comments.

Maui Conservation Alliance:

Maui Invasive Species Committee
Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership
East Maui Watershed Partnership
National Park Service - Haleakalā National Park
Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve
Maui Nui Botanical Gardens
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Hawai'i Islands Land Trust
Tri-Isle RC&D

The Nature Conservancy
Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership
Haleakalā Ranch
State of Hawai'i – DLNR/DOFAW
Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project
UH-CTAHR
County of Maui
USDA – NRCS
Auwahi Forest Restoration Project

The Maui Conservation Alliance (MCA) is a cooperative partnership of government, private, and non-profit organizations who are leaders in the management of Maui's native ecosystems. MCA is committed to accelerating conservation management and focusing on the highest priority conservation needs.



Testimony of the Maui Invasive Species Committee
Supporting the Department of Land and Natural Resources
Request for Purchase of Private Lands at Kamehamehenui, Maui

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

The Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) is in strong support of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) proposed acquisition of 3,277 acres at Kamehamehenui, Maui.

MISC works closely with the DLNR to stop the spread of invasive species. Purchase of the proposed parcel in Kula, Maui will allow MISC to continue work on invasive plants such as pampas grass (*cortaderia* spp.), which has been found throughout the Upcountry area. Control on the proposed parcel will help prevent the spread between neighboring parcels, where work has been ongoing. Control of invasive species, such as pampas grass, is a key component to future restoration efforts.

Pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata* and *C. selloana*) is a large, tussock-forming grass native to South America. Plants produce thousands of wind-dispersed seeds. Both *C. jubata* and *C. selloana* have proved to be aggressive invaders in natural areas of California, New Zealand, and South Africa. *C. jubata* was discovered invading natural areas on Maui in 1989. Distribution data show that pampas grass has invaded numerous areas of rain forest as well as pasture lands on East and West Maui. The proposed parcel has been known to harbor pampas and act as a point-source affecting neighboring parcels. This is just one example of weed control that should occur on the subject parcel and surrounding area.

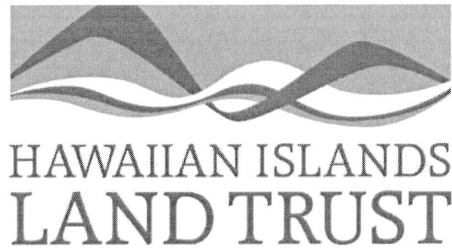
This opportunity to open thousands of acres on Maui for public access, native ecosystem restoration and to remove it from potential development is a rare event. This is an opportunity to complete protection of a band of forest that once encircled Haleakalā. Restoration, recreational, and other opportunities abound here. We join the other supporters of this project in requesting that the Board of Land and Natural Resources complete this purchase and protect this land for future generations.

Thank you for recognizing the importance of taking swift and meaningful action now, to protect the uniqueness of Upcountry Maui.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Adam Radford, Manager



March 4, 2019

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Please accept this letter as an expression of support from the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT) for the acquisition of lands in Kamehamehenui, Kula, Maui. Acquisition of this property would provide substantial benefits to both native ecosystems and to the people of Maui.

Having spent a substantial amount of time on this land, both in my youth, and more recently in my professional capacity as Chief Conservation Officer with HILT, I understand that creating a maunalei reserve, where native flora and fauna can once again thrive in the upper elevation cloud forest, will have tangible benefits for both native species, while contributing to the groundwater recharge so vital for the life of the land. I believe it is particularly important to note that the permanent protection of this land will ultimately provide a corridor that protected and endangered birds can use to maintain biological connections across a broad swathe of east Maui. An additional benefit that will come about is an increase in public access to this very special place. In our experience, enhancing public access is one of the most important ways to gain public support for the restoration of native ecosystems, and to foster a sense of aloha `aina.

In my discussions with the members of the staff at the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, I have sensed a high degree of enthusiasm for seeing this special place protected forever. I have always been extremely impressed with the passion and professionalism of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, but the potential to see a large swath of land restored. Their commitment to the health and integrity of the land is evident in my numerous encounters with them. Funding this grant request will help to protect the ecological integrity of Kamehamehenui ahupua`a, Kula moku, and the entire island of Maui. If you have any questions, or if I can provide any other information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mahalo

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'Scott G. Fisher'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Scott Fisher, Ph.D.

Associate Executive Director of Conservation



May 6, 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(1): Request Approval of: (1) Acquisition of Private Lands; (2) Issuance of Management Right of Entry to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife; (3) and Authorize the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to conduct Public Hearings on the Island of Maui for proposed addition to the Forest Reserve System, situated at Kamehamehenui, Kula, Makawao, Maui, Tax Map Key (2) 2-3-005:002 & 014

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

The Trust for Public Land strongly supports approval of agenda item C(1). We have been honored and excited to work in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) to purchase approximately 3,434 acres of land at Kamehamehenui, in Kula, Maui, which extends from just a few-minute drive from the Kula Lodge to the summit of Haleakalā.

This project gives DOFAW the opportunity to restore mauka portions of the watershed, increase drinking water supplies, restore native forest and the recovery of native plant and animal species, increase recreational hunting/hiking/camping access, and connect the Kula Forest Reserve.

The Trust for Public Land, DOFAW, and our Congressional delegation were able to secure \$6 million from the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Habitat Conservation Program. Maui state legislators were also able to appropriate \$4,000,000.00 needed to close. Federal, state, and local communities have been working very hard for many years to conserve this land. We are grateful to be part of this successful partnership securing the future of our 'āina and the people who enjoy it.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lea Hong".

Lea Hong

Hawaiian Islands State Director

Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow

The Trust for Public Land