



HAWAII

1003 Bishop St.  
Pauahi Tower, Ste. 740  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
T: 808.524.8694  
[tpl.org](http://tpl.org)

#### ADVISORY BOARD

**Earlynne Maile, Chair**  
Hawaiian Electric Co.

**Race Randle, Vice Chair**  
Howard Hughes Corp.

**Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli**  
Molokai General Hospital

**Stanford S. Carr**  
Stanford Carr Development

**Kā'eo Duarte**  
Kamehameha Schools

**Mahina Paishon-Duarte**  
The Waiwai Collective

**Bob Hines**  
Mediator

**Steve Kelly**  
James Campbell Company LLC

**Mark Linscott**  
Kaiser Permanente

**Kurt Matsumoto**  
Pūlama Lāna'i

**Catherine Ngo**  
Central Pacific Bank

**Edmund C. Olson**  
Farmer, Rancher, Landowner

**Blake Oshiro**  
Capitol Consultants of Hawaii

**Gregory C. Pietsch**  
Pietsch Properties LLC

**Brad Punu**  
Honolulu Seawater

**Kirstin Punu**  
NAVFAC Pacific

**Tom Reeve**  
Conservationist

**Gregg H. Takara**  
Morgan Stanley

September 21, 2020

Via Email [blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov](mailto:blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov)

Chair Suzanne Case & Board Members

Board of Land and Natural Resources

**Re: Agenda Item C.1. Approve Dispositions of land that Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation acquired with a Grant from the Land Conservation Fund at Wai'anae, O'ahu, Tax Map Key No: (1) 8-6-008:004.**

Aloha Chair Case and Board Members:

The Trust for Public Land strongly supports Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation's (WCRC) (dba MA'O Organic Farms) (MA'O) request for dispositions of land acquired with a grant from the Land Conservation Fund. The Trust for Public Land provided technical assistance to MA'O in acquiring the 11-acre Takahashi Farm, one of the first community projects funded by the Legacy Land Conservation Program.

For over 20 years, MA'O has been a leading aloha 'aina educator and an essential food source for communities across O'ahu. MA'O has outgrown their current facilities on the Takahashi Farm and wishes to construct a new food processing facility to process several tons of produce daily in an environment that adheres to the latest food safety requirements.

Approving the request for disposition by creating a two-unit condominium property regime over the existing property will enable WCRC to buy back the State's interest in one of the units and allow the construction of a new building for agricultural produce processing and farmer training. If approved, MA'O will be able to manage the larger unit consistent with the purposes of the Legacy Program supporting and protecting local agriculture.

MA'O has worked diligently and in good-faith to get to this point and their proposal will increase local food production and processing capabilities on O'ahu and further contribute to their mission of facilitating youth empowerment efforts by training and educating future community leaders. We strongly support MA'O's vision for developing a modern food safety certified building structure on their land as consistent with the purpose of the Legacy Land Conservation Program grant and Chapter 173A in which the land was awarded.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of this proposal.

Lea Hong  
Hawaiian Islands State Director  
Edmund C. Olson Fellow



## **TESTIMONY**

State of Hawaii  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
PO BOX 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Re: Testimony in the Matter of Division of Forestry & Wildlife "Approve Dispositions of land that Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation acquired with a Grant from the Land Conservation Fund at Wai'anae, O'ahu, Tax Map Key No: (1) 8-6-008:004.

September 23, 2020

Aloha Chairperson Case & Board Members:

My name is Tiare Toetu'u-Aipa and our family are lifelong residents of Wai'anae. I am currently a Ho'owaiwai Youth Leadership Training (YLT) intern at MA'O Organic Farms.

I have been an intern at MA'O for 2.5 years, first entering into the program after graduating from Wai'anae High School in 2018. During my time in the YLT program, I have learned the value of learning about our 'aina, of growing organic food for our community and the importance of a college education. I recently completed my Associates degree at the University of Hawaii Leeward Community College.

Today, as a Ho'owaiwai YLT intern, I have been able to continue to pursue opportunities in restoring maui ola, holistic health and well-being by being engaged and leading health activities on the farm for youth and by also being able to work here at MA'O will pursuing my Baccalaureate degree in Indigenous Health at the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu.

I am writing testimony to share my support for the disposition of land to Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation, the parent organization of MA'O Organic Farms, for the purpose of completing a facilities project that will see the realization of many efforts to continue to grow the farm so that it may achieve its mission to grow more young leaders as well as to grow more food.

Having spent many years on the farm, helping in the daily production and processing work with my peers, I know that a state of the art, food safety certified facility will help our work tremendously – as more acreage is put into production and more young people like me are committing to this work, we will need a better facility to increase our efficiency and efficacy as the amount of food is grown and need to be processed for distribution.

In addition, the needs of our community and our State for food security is extremely important and during the pandemic, we have been shown to be highly vulnerable here in Wai‘anae as evidenced by the food pantry efforts. I have been able to volunteer at the food distributions in our community and the need for fresh fruits and vegetables is critical. Your support today is very important and will allow MA‘O to increase its capacity to meet this kākou need.

Although I am unable to be here at this meeting because of a school conflict, I really wanted to express my kāko‘o of the request and humbly ask the esteemed members of the Board to please support the proposed action.

Sincerely,



Tiare Toetu‘u-Aipa, HYL Intern  
WCRC-MA‘O Organic Farms  
Moku o Wai‘anae