

From: Joseph Lawlor
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting 11/13 Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 11:30:36 PM

Honorable Members of the Board,

I respectfully request that you include the Waimanu campsite in the phased reopening of Hawaiian State Parks. As State and County imposed measures have been successful at keeping COVID-19 at bay in Hawai'i, the Division of State Parks is commensurately lessening restrictions and reopening park areas in concert with County specific rules and guidelines. Parks, trails, and open spaces can provide opportunities for physical activity while also providing opportunities for a break, health, and wellness. Camping in the open air in small groups can be particularly helpful for mental health in the current covid environment.

As has been observed at O'ahu campsites since July, groups with members of the same household can safely enjoy camping during the pandemic. Hawai'i residents and visitors should have the same opportunity to enjoy camping. The opening of the Waimanu campsite would allow people to enjoy one of Hawai'i's most spectacular resources, and rejuvenate during these challenging times.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Lawlor