



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Hawaii State Aha Moku
To the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Land Board)

For the meeting of the Land Board

February 26, 2021
Honolulu, Hawaii

Agenda Item E2: Request for Issuance of a Revocable Permit to Hanalike Ohana, LLC dba Moana Ocean Adventures to Moor a Double Hulled canoe and use Napo'opo'o Landing for Embarking and Disembarking of Patrons for Commercial Tours at Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park (KBSHP), South Kona, Hawai'i Island, Tax Map Keys: (3) 8-2-004:015, Seaward of 8-1-010 and 011; 8-2-002, 004, 005, and 006; and Declare the Project Exempt from Requirements of Chapter 343, HRS and Title 11, Chapter 200.1, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

Aloha Chairperson Case and Honorable Members of the Land Board,

On behalf of the Aha Moku participants and members of Native Hawaiian generational families connected to the Kealakekua Bay on the ahupua'a of Kealakekua, **we support the request of the Division of State Parks (DSP) to the Land Board to approve** the request for issuance of a Revocable Permit to Hanalike Ohana, LLC dba Moana Ocean Patrons for commercial tours at Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park (KBSHP). Although Aha Moku supports this submittal, we focus on the critically important segments of native Hawaiian traditional and cultural components.

Aha Moku Foundation

*E MĀLAMALAMA KE AKUA
E MĀLAMALAMA KA 'ĀINA
E MĀLAMALAMA KEKAHI I KEKAHI
E MĀLAMALAMA NA IWI HANAU O KA 'AINA
E MĀLAMALAMA KA PONO O HAWAI'I*

*HAVE HONOR AND RESPECT FOR GOD
HAVE HONOR AND RESPECT FOR THE 'ĀINA
HAVE HONOR AND RESECT FOR ONE ANOTHER
HAVE HONOR AND RESPECT FOR THE PEOPLE BORN OF THE LAND
HAVE HONOR AND RESPECT FOR THE ORDER OF HAWAI'I...*

In these words of the last living founder of the Hawaii State Aha Moku, Kawaikapuokalani Hewett brings forth the 'uhane (spirit) and 'ike (knowledge) of the kupuna of all the islands. And, in this case, particularly of Kealakekua. The generational families of Kealakekua primarily come from Ka'awaloa and Napo'opo'o in South Kona on Moku O Keawe (Island of Hawaii). All believe in and practice the Foundation of Aha Moku not because it is the foundation of Aha Moku, but because it is the foundation of the indigenous culture.

The Aha Moku works with the Kealakekua Historic State Park Cultural Advisory Council (Council). The Council is comprised of residents of the Kaawaloa Village and others who are traditional and generational descendants of the original inhabitants of Kealakekua and Kaawaloa prior to 1778. The Council works with State Parks in monitoring and contributing generational mo'olelo of Kealakekua mauka and makai. Their primary concern is that natural and cultural traditional practices and use of Kealakekua and its Bay are not adversely impacted by over-usage of those not familiar with the ecosystem and environment that is truly unique to that ahupua'a. They are active in working with DSP on the current Master Plan which is on-going.

Kealakekua Historic State Park Cultural Advisory Council (Council) Recommendations:

The Hanalike Ohana is comprised of generational descendants of Kealakekua and residents of Kaawaloa Village and is part of the Council. As such, they are connected to the ecosystem of this place and offer authentic historical cultural knowledge to tourists and others. This is important as it comes from descendants who lived this history. There is support for Uncle's wa'a, but we ask that:

- DSP develop a process that would collect a percentage of all commercial tours in the Bay for the purpose of supporting cultural and natural resources that are community driven which in turn, would benefit the efforts of the community in generating cultural educational programs unique to Kealakekua and Kaawaloa.
- DSP address the lack of management for the resources of others who have existing permits.
 - Hanalike Ohana, rooted in place-based tradition, uses the Napo'opo'o landing as it is the safest and best place for transporting passengers in the village because they understand the balance between visitor and residential impacts.
- DSP establish operating hours on the wharf for tour operators no earlier than 7:45 a.m. and no later than 4:30 p.m.
- DSP make it mandatory that all tours operating from the Napo'opo'o Wharf cancel tours during state, county, and/or federal postings of high surf warnings.
 - Recently, there was an advisory sent out by the Hawaii County Civil Defense, and a tour was conducted ignoring the warning. Safe experiences for both consumers and residents should be mandatory. (See picture below)



- DSP establish a process where Village resident complaints, pertaining to safety on land, or in the bay will be expedited.
 - Examples: Rocks continue to fall from the Pali

- Examples: Swim zones for the dolphins, and whales that are coming into the bay are being approached by tour operators. Note: The Coast Guard was good, but they stopped patrolling.
- If residents provide complaints, how does DSP address the complaints? Will there be formal warnings? Citations of tour operators? Enforcement?

In the process of managing visitors and recreation users in our residential village, with most residents comprised of native Hawaiian traditional and generational cultural practitioners, the visitor industry requires our Aloha Spirit. Therefore, the visitor industry must respect that Aloha Spirit as our quality of life must be considered as well.

The State must not forget their obligations and impacts to our village. “We keep supporting all of their state efforts, but they are really slow in acknowledging our cultural efforts.” Napo’opo’o Wharf was an important cultural site before it became a wharf and is considered part of the Village. Our concern is the impact visitors have in our village, now and in the future – this is, and always has been, our home.

Aha Moku Recommendations to the Land Board

In keeping to our foundation of honoring God, the land, and the people of the land, we support the mana’o and recommendations stated in this testimony from the Council and recommend the following:

- **That the BLNR accept the recommendations of the Council as stated and that DSP immediately begin discussions on implementing them.**
- **That the BLNR accept and adopt the DSP request to approve the issuance of a Revocable Permit to Hanalike Ohana, LLC dba Moana Ocean Patrons for commercial tours at Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park (KBSHP).**

Further, we ask that steps continue to transform the existing Kealakekua Historic State Park Cultural Advisory Council to a permanent one attached to the DLNR Division of State Parks.

Respectfully and humbly yours,

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