

From: asinsparks@gmail.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Boat ramp
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 3:40:47 PM

Please build back better the boat ramp. Do what needs to be done. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee E. Lord
Managing Director

West Hawai'i Office
74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
Phone (808) 323-4770
Fax (808) 327-3563



County of Hawai'i

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Zendo Kern
Director

Jeffrey W. Darrow
Deputy Director

East Hawai'i Office
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Phone (808) 961-8288
Fax (808) 961-8742

February 24, 2021

Suzanne Case, Chairperson
State of Hawai'i – Board of Land and Natural Resources
via email: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Subject: Letter of Support for Pohoiki Boat Ramp Restoration

Dear Chairperson Case and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

As a result of the 2018 Kīlauea eruption, the District of Puna lost its only boat ramp at Pohoiki due to the formation of a new black sand beach blocking access. This access point is critical for local fishermen as they now must transport their boats at least 30 minutes to an hour to the Hilo boat harbor. That does not account for the time it takes to travel by boat to the productive fishing areas off the Puna coastline, where some have fished for generations.

Following the eruption, the County built a temporary access road on Highway 137 between MacKenzie State Recreation Area and Pohoiki to provide access to the coastline and Isaac Hale Beach Park. However, the fishermen are still unable to launch their boats. These fishing grounds are some of the best the island has to offer, as evident by Pohoiki ranking as the third most productive fishing harbor prior to the eruption.

The current situation is unsustainable for the subsistence, economic, and cultural needs of these families and the district as a whole. As highlighted in the County's Kīlauea Recovery and Resilience Plan, restoration of boat access at Pohoiki is needed to support economic empowerment and self-reliance; jobs located within the community; and recovery and long-term resilience for the area. For these reasons, the Planning Department is in full support of restoring boat access at Pohoiki.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue.

ZENDO KERN
Planning Director

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Steven Ikaika Rodenhurst, P.E.
Director

Lee E. Lord
Managing Director

Merrick H. Nishimoto
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Aupuni Center
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 7 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4224
(808) 961-8321 · Fax (808) 961-8630
public_works@hawaiicounty.gov

February 25, 2021

Suzanne Case, Chairperson
State of Hawai'i – Board of Land and Natural Resources
Via email: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Subject: Letter of Support for Pohoiki Boat Ramp Restoration

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

I write in full support of DOBOR's proposal to restore ocean access at Pohoiki Boat Ramp.

The 2018 Kīlauea eruption rendered the Pohoiki Boat Ramp inaccessible due to lava debris and accumulated sand. Since then, temporary access to Isaac Hale Park has been restored along Highway 137 between Mackenzie State Recreation area and Pohoiki. As of February 16, 2021, the County of Hawai'i Department of Public Works provided a timeline to reinforce the commitment to restore roads affected by the 2018 Kīlauea eruption and provide access to Isaac Hale Park, including Pohoiki Road from Highway 132 to Isaac Hale Park and Highway 137 from Highway 132 to Isaac Hale Park. Additionally, the commitment was made to restore paved access along Highway 137 between Mackenzie State Recreation and Pohoiki.

This decision to restoring roads affected by the 2018 Kīlauea eruption is based upon restoring safe access to home and livelihood. The Department of Public Works is supportive of the County's Kīlauea Recovery and Resilience Plan, through which restoration of boat access at Pohoiki is necessary for recovery and long-term resilience for the area.

Mahalo for your attention and consideration of this item.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Ikaika Rodenhurst".

Steven Ikaika Rodenhurst
Director

From: [Leah Gouker](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [McCall, Finn D](#); John@tlcgohawaii.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on 2/26/21 Agenda item J. DIVISION OF BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION 1. Board Briefing on Pohoiki Boat Ramp
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 7:19:21 PM

To: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Fr: Carl Okamoto

Re: Testimony on 2/26/21 Agenda item J. DIVISION OF BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION 1. Board Briefing on Pohoiki Boat Ramp

Aloha,

My name is Carl Okamoto. I am 66 years of age and have memories of fishing Pohoiki since I was 4 or 5 years old. I don't recall the cement ramp, but do remember logs laid half buried in a rocky beach with a couple of shall boats laying on the rocks. Could be just my imagination. My first experience utilizing the ramp was about 1967. There was no break wall. At one time there must have been a pier of some sort there. There were still metal pipes sticking out of the water. The furthest out was referred to as third pole. While launching, we had to stand in the water and hold the boat because there was no dock to tie to.

I have been a fisher all of my life, commercially for the last 20 plus years. I consume and give away a portion of almost every catch. I have my roots in subsistence fishing and learned old Hawaiian style fishing. I have never sold any of the fish caught the old way. I believed the fairy tale. But that's another story. Presently commercial fishing is my sole source of income.

Before the loss of use of the Pohoiki ramp, I would fish from Hawaiian Beaches to Hilina Pali. Fishing from Pohoiki, I have caught 100 plus pound tuna, ono and bottom fish within five minutes of the ramp. Ono and bottom fish are found within two minutes. Fishing from Wailoa ramp, it's at least an hour for ono or bottom fish and numbers that don't come close to what we catch in Pohoiki. Fishing north of Hilo is very sparse, only a few small areas, so easy to knock the population down. There are many, many sharks! For the short time that I've fished there, while bottom fishing, I have caught more sharks there than all of the years that I fished out of Pohoiki. Fishing south, from Lelewi to Hawaiian beaches, it is very sad- hardly any ono trolling. I had high hopes when they opened the BRF there. It was pathetic; very little, and mostly undersized fish. It seems that it may have been a private fishing area for poachers all the years it was closed. Ika shibi fishing is much more productive from Kumukahi to Hilila Pali than in the Hilo area.

I used to travel from Hilo to Kalapana when we first lost the use of the Pohoiki ramp. The trip would take 9 to 10 hours one way. And I still would be about two hours away from Hilina Pali. I have a slow boat. It travels about 7.5 mph at 3,900 rpm, and consumes between 6.25 and 6.5 gallon of gasoline per hour. I would have over 160 gallons of gas on board; 80 gallons in the tank, and 80-plus gallons in plastic gas containers. Together with chum, bait and gear there would be very little open deck space. If I hooked an ono, I would have to be extra careful so it would not slice open one of the gas containers. Because the trip to and from Kalapana takes 18 to 20 hours, a fishing trip to Kalapana is usually three days and two nights. If the trip was really good, I would travel home on the second afternoon after resting. On one trip I had two 100-plus pound ahi in the box, and then was awoken by a 200 pound marlin in the morning. Because marlin has low to very low market prices, I called a friend to meet me at Pohoiki. I tied the marlin to an empty gas container and dropped it overboard. He came out with a kayak to get it for his

family and neighbors. I gave the marlin away because of ice management which is important on a 3 day trip. I wanted to catch more ahi and made sure that I could care for them well.

I am lucky to receive complementary ice from my wholesaler, but on a three-day trip, I also purchase block ice which adds almost another \$100.00 to the trip expense. The complementary flake ice takes more space per pound and has more surface area than block ice, thus does not last as long per cubic ft of ice.

Hauling the boat takes twice as long. Now it takes 40 minutes to Hilo, as opposed to less than 20 minutes to Pohoiki. Fuel costs for boat and truck doubled, in the neighborhood of \$600.00 per trip. So did wear and tear on the boat, truck, and trailer.

Another large factor is that because travel time has doubled, actual fishing time is greatly reduced. Also the toll on the body necessitates reducing the amount of trips per year. I used to spend more time in total work, 60 plus hours a week, prep, maintenance, repair sales and fishing, than I do now. This is because the longer duration of the trip takes a greater toll on the body. I would tell people that it's not so much how much you sleep, but when you sleep. You have to repay with interest for the extra hours you push without sleep.

Presently on the shorter Hilo area 2 day 1 night trip. From the time I wake at home till I get back to bed at home is about 39 hours. This is 28 hours or so on the water, and the rest spent hauling, loading, unloading and cleaning up. Of the 28 hours on the water, I sleep two hours on average. I don't have the numbers for the longer 3 day trip to Kalapana because I haven't done that many and none last year.

On the Kalapana trips, I pay constant attention to the engine clock. For the amount of fuel, I should have about 24.5 hours running time. For safety, I like to reach back with two hours of fuel in reserve. This means that I have only 4.5 to 2.5 hours engine time for fishing. If the drift is exceptionally fast going south, it may cause me to have to cut the trip short because of the farther distance I have to travel to get back to Hilo. Spare gas is important. In my time fishing I have towed six vessels and taken gas out to two boats low or out of gas. Two of the boats that I towed would have been lost on the rocks if I didn't get there in time, one I noticed drifting towards the surf while I was fishing, the other when the fire department helicopter saw me and came to request help.

The bottom line is that with the doubling of expenses and reduction of fishing time, with the reduced revenue, we can hardly survive out of Hilo. I don't know how I would deal with another major breakdown. The Pohoiki boat ramp should be opened without any further delay.

Mahalo,

Carl Okamoto

From: [Makani Gregg](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:07:08 PM

Testimony on 2/26/21 Agenda item J. DIVISION OF BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION 1. Board Briefing on Pohoiki Boat Ramp

Aloha kākou,

My name is Toni Makani Gregg, and I am a resident along Pohoiki Road, Pāhoa. I am involved with several community entities and stakeholders, currently serving as: Board Member of KAPONO (501c3); active member of Puna Maka‘ala and an ‘ōlapa at hula Hālau Haka ‘Apapane. I am dedicated and passionate to the betterment and preservation of my human and natural community. I do volunteer my time to collaborate with many lineal descendants of the Puna Makai area, and I am a strong advocate for their inherent right to make land-use decisions in their ancestral homes.

I am writing today to express my full support for an EA exemption for the restoration of Pohoiki Boat Ramp. It is critical that every opportunity to expedite the re-opening of this vital community resource must be taken.

We need the boat ramp open so that our fishers can supply our island with fresh local fish which will get them paid and our stores running.

Mahalo
Toni Makani Gregg

From: [Bunnie Lino](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: Board members
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:21:32 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

Aloha, My Name is Bunnie Harrington. I am a second generation fisherwomen from Pohoiki, and the wife of Mike Harrington, a full time commercial fisherman from Pohoiki. Most can't fathom the importance of Pohoiki. Let me share. To my 'ohana, it's not just any boat ramp on the Puna coast, it our second home. It's where our 'ohana wait's for us to return. It's where everyone is there waiting and willing to lend a hand. From bringing your trailer to the ramp, to helping unload the fish. It's where Aloha and 'ohana still bares weight. It doesn't just mean something, it's Everything to us. The past lawai'a knew our coast well enough to know, there are not many places that will facilitate a ramp. Our coast is one of the roughest in the state. We don't want anything big or commercialized like Sea Engineering has proposed. We are simple lawai'a and don't want to attract unwanted guests. I hope that the State of Hawai'i takes our knowledge and mana'o on this matter and utilizes it. Thank you for hearing me.

Mahalo,
Bunnie Harrington

F/V Mahana

From: [Leah Gouker](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [McCall, Finn D](#); John@tlcghawaii.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on 2/26/21 Agenda item J. DIVISION OF BOATING AND OCEAN
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 7:17:05 PM

To: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Fr: Aku Hauanio

**Re: Testimony on 2/26/21 Agenda item J. DIVISION OF BOATING AND OCEAN
RECREATION 1. Board Briefing on Pohoiki Boat Ramp**

Aloha,

My name is Aku Hauanio. I was born and raised in Kalapana in 1952. I have been fishing along the coast by shore and by boat for my entire life, taught by my grandparents and parents. I am from Kalapana, and I was brought up fishing. At this time, I fish at least two times a week. Driving to Hilo to launch is not a good thing. To go all the way from Kalapana to Hilo with my truck and boat, the gas for the truck alone is \$100.

I very rarely fish out of Hilo. I go back to where I was raised on Kalapana side. Just to go trolling on that side now costs hundreds of dollars. To go ika shibi, it costs \$700 or \$800 each trip.

I always go back home because I know I will catch down there. Hardly anyone fishes down there because the ocean is rough. I don't know anything about Hilo, but at home I know all the areas that the fish bite. Down there, I know all the grounds from where our kupuna showed us. I don't know Hilo; I am only guessing when fishing in Hilo. This is why we need our ramp. This is where we know where the fish are. I leave Kalapana, then spend hundreds of dollars driving on the road and the ocean for hours just to get back to Kalapana for fishing.

Every time I go fishing, I have to stay on the sea for two or three days to save money. It is not easy. The ocean is rough, you try to sleep, and then you have to fish all day before the drive back- just because the cost is so high.

The ramp is good where it is at Pohoiki. It has boat parking and the bumpers. All we need is the opening to the ocean. That's all we need is the opening, and then we're all good. I will launch there again. The original depth is good, the top of the original ground can be cleared away and it should be good to use again.

I want the BLNR to know that I support the opening of the boat ramp at Pohoiki as soon as possible.

Mahalo,
Aku Hauanio

2/24/21

To: Chairman Suzanne Case, Members of BLNR
From: Deborah Ward

Item J 1

I am Chair of the Hawaii Island Group of Sierra Club. The Group members are in support of dredging the sand to restore the Pohoiki Boat Ramp, made inaccessible by sand following the 2018 lava inundation in the Puna District. Maintenance dredging does not historically require Coastal Zone Management compliance, and the beach formed by the 2018 lava flows is rapidly receding, as currents carry away the sand. Coastal surge is moving the beach, leaving underlying rock at the water's edge not conducive to safe beach activity. We have been concerned that the funds spent dredging could be futile if sand closes the entrance to the ramp again. But, with the recent sand migration, and the sorely needed access for local fishermen and recreational boaters, the attempt seems justified. Blasting out another entry elsewhere could have a far greater negative environmental impact, and the current location already has a ramp and parking.

From: [luana jones](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pohoiki Boat Ramp
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 3:19:23 PM

Pohoiki Boat Ramp

BLNR 2/26/21

Agenda itemJ1

Aloha,

My name is Luana Jones. I have been a resident of Pohoiki and an advocate of Puna for decades, and I speak for the people of Puna; the families, the fisherwomen and women (Kalawai'a), the land owners, the surfers, the tour boaters, and the Kupuna of Pohoiki. It has been over two years since Puna was devastated by lava. Several hundred homes were destroyed and thousands of people's lives were disrupted by continuous explosions of lava from fissures popping up in neighborhoods! Unimaginable rivers of lava emerging from the infamous Fissure 8 flowed down to the sea and covered miles of Puna coastline, finally stopping just before the Pohoiki boat ramp, after months of devastation!

What is left at Pohoiki lays beneath tons of rock and sand, along a treacherous shore! The Pohoiki Boat Ramp and surrounding area was the only safe ocean access and family friendly ocean park in all of Puna, a district more than twice the size of the Island of Oahu!

The Covid pandemic only served to exacerbate the hardships of a Community struggling to recover and already suffering from devastation trauma!

After the first year, we were disappointed to learn that there was still no specific plan in progress to restore Pohoiki or provide immediate alternatives! It was our Kalawai'a, who knowing the conditions of our kahakai (shoreline), suggested that since much of the loose sand had washed down the coast, dredging for ocean access at the Pohoiki Boat Ramp will be a welcome alternative and an initially temporary (but potentially permanent) solution to the restoration of livelihoods and lifestyles in Pohoiki.

In conclusion, I/we humbly implore the Public Servants in the DLNR to continue and complete the "Test Dredge Project" to give relief to our Kalawai'a and boaters, and toward the healing and recovery of the people and Puna.

Mahalo Nui e Kākou,

Aunty Luana

Cell: (808)938-0021

Sent from my iPhone

From: whipmkealoha@aol.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: whipmkealoha@aol.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on 2/26/21 Agenda item J - DIVISION OF BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION / Board Briefing on Pohoiki Boat Ramp
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:01:43 AM

Aloha Board Members,

The purpose for this testimony is to support the ongoing efforts of our community, and DOBOR, with regard to the restoration of our boat ramp at Poho'iki, Puna, Hawaii. We appreciate DOBOR working with our fishermen, and our Puna community towards recovery from the historic eruption of 2018. Our Poho'iki boat ramp is a vital component to our recovery efforts.

The record will reflect our community meetings held since the eruption, and the efforts of our elected officials on both the State and County level. Additionally, the Army Corps of Engineers has been most helpful in "paving the path" utilizing an existing International permit for restoration of our boat ramp. We certainly appreciate Chief Linda Speerstra, and her staff at ACOE for their diligence, and understanding of our plight.

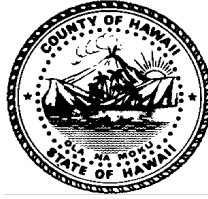
We support the plan as proposed with regard to the dredging of the existing boat ramp (Phase I), and the continued efforts for a permanent solution (Phase II) in Poho'iki. The testimony provided by Ms. Leah Gouker is most informative, as it defines the entire process we have endured to date. Also included in her testimony is our County Council Resolution (passed unanimously; 9-0), and the petition circulated with over 4,300 signatures in support, and counting.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration, and we look forward to your support. Please stay safe, all.

Sincerely,

Ku'ulei Kealoha Cooper, Individually & as Trustee
James K. and Miulan P.Y. Kealoha Trust

Ashley L. Kierkiewicz
Council Member
District 4 Puna



Office: (808) 961-8265
Fax: (808) 961-8912
ashley.kierkiewicz@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 23, 2021

Suzanne Case, Chairperson
State of Hawai'i – Board of Land and Natural Resources
via blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

RE: Support for Restoration of Pohoiki Boat Ramp

Aloha, Chairperson Case, Esteemed Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

I write in strong support of DOBOR's proposal to conduct maintenance dredging to re-establish ocean access from the Pohoiki Boat Ramp located in the Puna District on Hawai'i Island, and concur with the findings that the project is compliant with applicable provisions in HRS Chapter 343 and HAR Title 11, Chapter 200.1.

The Pohoiki Boat Ramp was rendered inaccessible as a result of lava debris and black sand accumulating during the 2018 Kīlauea eruption. Prior to the eruption, this boat ramp was one of the most productive fishing grounds in the State, helping with food security and driving our local economy. Since the ramp is buried, our lawai'a must trailer their vessels to Hilo (~30 miles) or Nā'ālehu (~70 miles) to launch and access their fishing spots; this adds substantial time, costs, and inequity to each fishing journey. Helping Puna lawai'a get back into the water - *in Puna* - will greatly enhance our subsistence lifestyle, commercial fishing operations, revitalize the economy, and boost our ongoing eruption recovery efforts.

I appreciate the State's willingness to genuinely engage the Puna community - especially local boaters and fishermen - over the last 2+ years to investigate ways forward. After consistent monitoring of the area and consultation with the community, DOBOR has concluded the excavation, dredging, and improvements to Pohoiki Boat Ramp is the most viable and feasible solution to achieve ocean access in Puna.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley Kierkiewicz", written in a cursive style.

Ashley L. Kierkiewicz

From: [Leah Gouker](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [McCall, Finn D](#); John@tlcghawaii.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on 2/26/21 Agenda item J. DOBOR 1. Board Briefing on Pohoiki Boat Ramp
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:45:21 PM

Testimony on 2/26/21 Agenda item J. DIVISION OF BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION 1. Board Briefing on Pohoiki Boat Ramp

Aloha kākou,

My name is Leah Gouker, and I am a life-long resident of Pāhoa. I am involved with many community entities and stakeholders, currently serving as: the administrative assistant for Kealoha Estate Trust (the largest landowner in the Pohoiki ahupua'a); Board Member of KAPONO (501c3); active member of Puna Maka'ala; Programs Specialist of Arts & Sciences Center (501c3); 'ōlapa at Hālau Hula Te Ha'a Lehua; and a Social Studies teacher at Pāhoa High and Intermediate School. I am wholly dedicated to the betterment of my community through social, environmental, political, and economic justice. I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with many of the lineal descendants of the Puna Makai area, and am a strong advocate for their right to make land-use decisions in their ancestral homes.

I am writing to express my support for an EA exemption for the restoration of Pohoiki Boat Ramp. It is critical that every opportunity to expedite the re-opening of this vital community resource must be taken.

Below, I have outlined a brief list of the issues and concerns surrounding Pohoiki Boat Ramp, reflective of nearly three years of consistent community-led efforts:

- **The effort to restore fishing access at Pohoiki has been consistent since the eruption**
 - **There have been numerous community meetings, both public and private**
 - [VIDEO SERIES: Puna Fishermen Pack Pohoiki Boat Ramp Meeting](#)
 - **This has been the consistent direction of DOBOR**
 - [Hawaii boat ramp could restore ocean access in volcano area](#)

- Consistent direct engagement with DLNR Deputy Director Bob Masuda
- Site visit by House Finance Committee
 - [Hawaii Tracker](#)
- County Council Resolution
 - [County of Hawaii Resolution No. 218-19](#)
- Community support for EA exemption
 - ACOE officials have recommended applying the existing nationwide permit EA exemption to this project. It qualifies as, it falls under “various routine activities, including maintenance or permit No.35 maintenance dredging of basins”. They need the formal application to be submitted in order to make a decision.
- State funding for restoration planning
 - Gov. David Ige has released \$500,000 in state funding that will be used for planning and feasibility studies for the possible restoration of the Pohoiki boat ramp
 - [Initial funds released for Puna boat ramp](#)
 - Representative Joy San Buenaventura and Senator Russell Ruderman secured \$1.5 million from the Senate Ways and Means Committee for Pohoiki Boat Ramp. State legislature appropriated this money last year. It was given specifically for Pohoiki and should not go to any other

department or get lapsed into the general fund.

- **Pohoiki has been agreed upon as the most culturally and environmentally appropriate site**

- Numerous meetings over nearly a three-year period have been held, with lineal descendants of the coastline, subsistence and commercial fishermen, community stakeholders, elected and government officials.

- There is a online petition with over 4,300 signatures

- [Petition · Petition Supporting Pohoiki Boat Ramp · Change.org](#)

- **Limited Access Points along coastline**

- There are no other feasible sites for a boat ramp along the entire 100 mile stretch between Hilo and Ka'ū. Pohoiki is the most viable location for a boat ramp by all accounts.

- **Disaster Preparation & Management**

- **In the event of natural disaster, the Pohoiki Boat Ramp serves as a vital evacuation and/or rescue strategy, as there is only one road in or out of Pāhoa. The ramp was considered as a method for bringing goods/services to the Pāhoa area in 2014, when a flow came within 100 yards of Pahoa Village Road. During the 2018 eruption, it was used as an evacuation point for people (and pets) that were stuck in the area between the MacKenzie flow and the Kapoho flow. During Tropical Storm Iselle, many, many roads were impassable for weeks. This type of event will likely occur again; it is critical to have a coastal access point in Puna Makai.**

-

Food Sovereignty

- It is essential that this community has access to this resource that has been feeding the people of this district for countless generations.
- Strengthening the local food system and encouraging consumers to buy local are critical components of the State Plan to increase food security and sustainability in Hawaii.

- **Cultural Function**

- [Recollections of Puna Fisheries and Native Fishing Customs Interviews at Pohoiki, Puna — with Kepā Maly](#)
- The absence of a boat ramp at Pohoiki puts extreme hardship on the lawai'a to continue their practice and pass their knowledge onto the next generation.
- Knowledge of fishing grounds is complex, multilayered, critical information that is extremely site-specific. It is vital that the information is transmitted from generation to generation, and there is not a large gap in access to these grounds or extensive limitations in accessibility.

- **Economic Sustainability**

- The Pohoiki Boat Ramp has provided income for countless families in Puna. The fishing industry is one of the only ones we have here. It must be restored so that our people do not need to commute 30+ miles into other districts to support their families.

- **Kīlauea 2018 Eruption Recovery**

- **The restoration of the Pohoiki Boat Ramp has been identified as an important component of the eruption recovery**
- **“The Pohoiki boat ramp, an important community meeting place that provided residents with access to the ocean for their livelihoods and food security, was rendered land-locked due to volcanic activity. The lack of access for fishing boats incurred significant economic impacts upon some individuals and families, but what was lost cannot be quantified in terms of numbers or values. Generations of families learned traditional fishing methods from their ancestors. Pohoiki was not just a fishing dock; it was a way of life for many. The community was built around sharing and preserving these traditions.”**

■

<https://recovery.hawaiicounty.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=302781>

The above list does not encompass, by any measure, the urgency in which this community needs the restoration of our boat ramp. We have been working on this for years already; our lawai'a are suffering, and our community is less safe on many levels. I urge the Board to utilize any and all means to remove the debris and re-open the ramp as soon as possible.

Mahalo nui loa,

Leah Gouker
Pāhoa, Puna, Hawai'i
leahgouker@gmail.com
808.747.5605

From: [Bunnie Lino](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: Board Members
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 10:08:31 AM

Sent on behalf of Allen Lino- per his request.

Aloha County Council,

My name is Allen Lino and I am a retired state employee and fisherman out of Pohoiki. Through the 80's, and 90's I fished out of Pohoiki while also working full time for the State of Hawai'i, DOT. Pohoiki is what helped me subsidize my income to help better support my 'ohana. I grew up fishing/ gathering with my Dad and brothers. As I became a father myself, I realized the importance of teaching my daughters how to gather for their own 'ohana and perpetuate their birthright. One of my daughters is a fisherwomen and married a commercial fisherman out of Pohoiki. I cannot express the importance of having Pohoiki Boat Ramp immediately available for fishermen. Whether it's to open the old ramp or to rebuild on the new flow in front of what used to be dead trees, the ramp is needed now.

Thank you for your time,
Allen Lino

Date: Feb. 23, 2021

To: Board of Land and Natural Resources (Feb. 26, 2021 scheduled meeting)

From: Lower Puna Rising (Umbrella Group for Residents Affected by the 2018 Eruption)

RE: Support for DLNR to pursue the Pohoiki Boat Ramp Maintenance Dredging Project

Aloha Board Members:

Lower Puna Rising (LPR) formed to assist the communities of Lower Puna with lava recovery efforts. We have representation from four subdivisions affected by the 2018 Lower East Rift Zone eruption of Kilauea, and our membership includes other community groups and individual property owners of the area.

LPR strongly supports the immediate recovery of the commercial boat ramp at Pohoiki as it once served as a major economic driver for this area. We encourage the BLNR to support the DLNR's submittal of a Nationwide permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu Division, (USACE) so that the proposed Pohoiki Boat Ramp Maintenance Dredging project can move forward. Given existing categorical exemptions that exist at the State level that have already been approved as part of the DLNR Exemption List, we do not feel either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed to commence this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in with our support for the proposed Pohoiki Boat Ramp Maintenance Dredging project. We hope the BLNR will give its support to the DLNR to work with USACE to advance this project and find the most expedient way to restore commercial fishing activities at Pohoiki. LPR has been active in pressing the County of Hawaii to fully restore Highway 137 from its intersection with Highway 132 to Pohoiki. We were heartened to learn last week that the County has agreed to recover that roadway, as well as recover Pohoiki Road and make improvements to Highway 137 south of Pohoiki. Working together we can restore economic vitality to the hard hit region of Lower Puna.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Robert Golden, President

Lower Puna Rising BOD

Robert Golden
Amedeo Markoff
Eileen O'Hara
Diane Franciosa
Braha Tarletz

From: [Keith Neal](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Land Board Submittals – 02/26/21
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:36:27 AM

Land Board Submittals;

FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DATE: FRIDAY, February 26, 2021

Regarding: DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES, F1 and F2

F1: I support strong enforcement action against Stephen Howard and Yukako Toriyama for unlawful collection of aquatic life for aquarium purposes within the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area. I look to the board to levy heavy fines, and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendants

Stephen Howard, and Yukako Toriyama, and accomplice Hitomi Sasaki.

F2: I support strong enforcement action against Jason Beevers for unlawful collection of aquatic life for aquarium purposes within the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area. I look to the board to levy heavy fines, and revocation of commercial marine licenses for defendant Jason Beevers .

Sincerely,
Keith Neal
Waimea, HI



OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE GREGGOR ILAGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL

February 25, 2021

TO: Chairperson Suzanne Case and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources

FROM: Representative Greggor Ilagan
District 4 – Puna

SUBJECT: Testimony for Item J1 Poho'iki Boat Ramp

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support for restoration of the Poho'iki Boat Ramp.

The closure of Poho'iki has had profound impacts on our local fishing community – both commercial and subsistence – leaving Puna fishermen facing extreme financial hardships. It goes beyond just the fishing industry – the consensus of the district is we need a fix to make the ramp useable as soon as possible.

While I appreciate the work of the engineers and consultants who've worked on the studies for relocation, Poho'iki Bay remains a premiere fishing spot and is invaluable to Puna. Pohoiki is the only boat launch ramp in the Puna District for small vessels and community use. The only viable option I see is to fix the existing ramp.

I'd like to thank Administrator Ed Underwood for preparing the following brief and identifying restoration projects for the boat ramp. I support these projects and offer my assistance as the district's state representative in collaborating with the Department and County of Hawai'i to see them through to completion.

Mahalo,

Greggor Ilagan

From: [Tony S](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pohoiki boat ramp
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:49:29 PM

My name is Tony Sylva and I have been fishing out of Pohoiki since I was a kid. My two daughters, Ku'uipo and Kulia, have been fishing out of Pohoiki boat ramp before they could walk.

Pohoiki was like our second home. We went almost every day. Weekends was our family day and I would take my daughters and their cousins out on my boat to go bottom fishing or run to Kahena buoy for some ahi or mahi-mahi. I normally fished every day for a 2-4 hour trip. Sometimes I had extended trips that would last for 2 days.

With no Pohoiki I have to launch out of Hilo. My 2-hour trips are now 4 days. I could be at the fishing grounds in minutes launching from Pohoiki; now it's a minimum of 4 hours from Hilo to Pohoiki. To get from Hilo to Pohoiki you have to cross the treacherous Kumukahi Point. In my opinion, Kumukahi is the second-roughest point on Hawaii Island, next to 'Upolu Point.

My fishing expenses for a single fishing trip used to range from \$120.00-\$250.00. Now my trip is a minimum \$500.00 and can cost up to \$800.00. Maintenance cost for my boat has now quadrupled since my trips are so many hours (and days) longer. I have made extensive modifications to my boat so it can make the long drive that is required to make any money fishing launching from Hilo. Hilo doesn't have fishing grounds like Pohoiki.

I can no longer go on single-day trips because it is not affordable. I have to take 4-day trips at a time. Now I don't see my girls for days because I have to make my trips count in order to make it worthwhile. My girls don't go out on the boat anymore because I don't trust taking them far out.

I cannot believe that farmers have gone back to farming because their roads have been restored. Most of the community that couldn't access their houses are now at home. Us Pohoiki fishermen are just screwed with the state taking the longest possible way to get us a chance at getting back to work out of Pohoiki. How much longer will it take to try something? More than half o Sent from my iPhone