To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Kiolaka'a in Ka'u District to preserve and give back to our Native Hawaiians for positive
due diligence to upkeep, replant, preserve and teach all generations.

Selling out is easy to Westerners & foreigners that are able to flash their cash. History repeats
itself, our system is built on it and depends on it. The Hawaiian system had been abolished,
yanked away, cheated their own system through what we live in our European Democracy that
transferred into the States.

Open your eyes or keep taking the pay into your pockets. Our leaders in our State, Counties,
and Congress are all designed by Europeans and their ways. Time to stop this and look at our
Hawai'i and our Native Hawaiian people and locals that understand our unique island culture
and its ecosystem.

Go ahead and sell out without having any infrastructure in place for our local people that has
been and is deep-rooted here.

Dysfunction runs rampant and when will you open your eyes to finally see us. Keep Hawai'i,
Hawai'i. Keep Ka'u, Ka'u.....nice and pristine. Should you decide for development to make
more sales in homes and condos....look at our deep rooted families working 3-4 jobs.

I can't afford to purchase any home or condo as a single mom. Shame on our leaders to try
and sell out Hawai'i without implementation of basic infrastructures of hospitals, schools,
roads, railways. This is 2021 and we live as if we are back in the 1800's.

Take a look at our newcomers that the jobs they takeover and flush out the locals. Like I said,
history repeats itself. With that said, definitely a dumb idea for development in Kiolaka'a and
definitely oppose.

Who will benefit more if this would be developed? Break-down the races/ethnicities and
income earned and there is your answer. Shame on you!!!

Yours truly,
Anastacia C Abellera
To whom it may concern:

My name is Maile Abellera and I live on the island of Hawai'i, in the District of Ka'u, in the small town of Pahala. I have lived here for well over 50 years and continue to make this my forever home.

There is many reasons why I choose to live here, but the one main reason I continue to stay, is that Ka'u is the only place left in Hawai'i, that is still real "country" living. I love the underdeveloped lands, the peacefulness, the weather and the people of Ka'u, is one big happy family that I am so happy to be apart of.

Growing up here, you learn to live off the land and sea. Granted the nearest major store is 1 hour away, you learn to adapt and you become comfortable to what is available for you. With that being said, I strongly OPPOSE of any monies awarded to Ala Kahakai Trail Association. None of the members of this association, AKTA, knows what it's like to live here, as they all live off on another island. How can they run an organization from behind the screen of a computer? We all know that in order to know what you're talking about, you need to be there and actually put in some sweat. Anyone can say my family comes from Ka'u, but do you see any of their AKTA family members helping out? No! Why? Cause Ka'u is a small knit community. We all know each other. We probably all related in some way or another. But no one wants to fight their own family, who rely on ocean access to provide for their families. It's not the locals who are ruining it for others, it's people like AKTA that makes it hard for everyone else. You take away access like you did Waikapuna, we are forced to seek other places. No matter what, people will find a way to get to the shoreline.

Generations after generations, we were all taught how to fish, dive and gather from these areas. If you haven't noticed, everyone from around the island, travel to these so called places. Why? Cause Ka'u has the best fishing grounds. You take that away, you take away our playgrounds. What if I was to come to your land and say, I want to preserve your backyard? You wouldn't like that right? Well same here. Stay out of Ka'u. We all can get together and preserve our own lands without AKTA or anyone else butting in, for that matter. We don't need funds for that. Best you be checking to see what they did with the money you gave them for Waikapuna? Wasn't there some extra funds after the purchase? Kind of sketchy if you ask me.

Anyways, once again, I, Maile Abellera, STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY MONIES BEING AWARDED TO ALA KAHAKAI TRAIL ASSOCIATION. Like my Grandmother once told me, never trust anyone with the last name FOX.

Appreciate you taking the time to read my testimony and hope you take it into consideration how valuable Ka'u is.

Mahalo,
MAILE ANDRADE ABELLERA
PO Box 928
PAHALA, HAWAII 96777
808-443-1567
IN OPPOSITION

C: DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

2. APPROVE GRANT AWARDS FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE LAND CONSERVATION FUND, AS REQUESTED IN APPLICATIONS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF INTERESTS and RIGHTS IN PARCELS OF LAND HAVING VALUE AS A RESOURCE TO THE STATE, FOR:

2B. ALA KAHAKAI TRAIL ASSOCIATION, $1,475,000, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 1,841.3 ACRES AT KA’U, HAWAI’I, (KIOLAKA’A), TAX MAP KEY NUMBERS: (3) 9-4-001:08:009, :016, 017, AND 023.

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 Kiolaka’a, Kawela, Waiohinu and Kamilo Ahupua’a that are the areas that are directly impacted by this acquisition, we offer you the responses of generational native Hawaiian families of Ka’u that are directly impacted by this request for acquisition by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (AKTA). These areas also include Ka’alu’alu, a traditional cave system of fresh water, Kaunamano and Waikapuna – all traditionally and culturally established subsistence gathering areas that also encompass wahi pana and pu’uhonua.

Aha Moku Foundation

The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku), via Act 288, SLH 2012 brings the voices of the native Hawaiian generational and lineal descendants forward to the Hawaii State government in issues that impact their traditional and customary practices within natural and cultural resources. Working within a traditional resource sustainability process restored from the 9th century through translations of ancient chants and mo’olelo, the Aha Moku focuses on three main principles:

- Malama Ke Akua (Honor God)
- Malama I Ka’Aina (Honor the Land)
- Malama Na Iwi Hanau O Ka ‘Aina (Honor the people of the land)
These three principles are critical to the testimonies and generational knowledge of the native Hawaiians who continue to practice customary beliefs within their ahupua’a, and in this case, the entire coastal area in Ka’u through which the Ala Kahakai Trail progresses. The acquisition requests of AKTA includes the mauka and makai lands of four major ahupua’a of Ka’u and encompasses almost 2,000 acres of land.

The people are comprised of their beliefs and are themselves an integral part of the natural resources and cannot be separated from them because the Akua, the land and the people are one. They are the whole entity and not separate compartments. In this traditional protocol, the Kupuna of the ‘Ohana, with their life experience, generational knowledge and wisdom are the guardians of their family knowledge and customs. This belief system is often not comprehended within the western thought process, yet it is the core of Hawaii State constitutional protection of the traditional and customary practices (TCP) of Hawaii.

**AHA MOKU OPPOSITION**

It is with deep reflection, and with constant consultation with the Kupuna and their communities that traditionally use the Ala Kahakai Trail and the lands in which they are attached, for subsistence, gathering and religious purposes, that the Hawaii State Aha Moku **strongly opposes** this acquisition for reasons that were addressed in the BLNR meeting on January 22, 2021. Per the Kupuna and a large part of the Ka’u community, those reasons were never resolved. Instead, the issues became worse.

The BLNR decision on January 22, 2021 was to defer the AKTA acquisition request until AKTA could reach out to the Ka’u community and include all in the proposed management process. AKTA held two (2) zoom meetings: February 16 and April 19, 2021 and reached out to the general public. Outside of those two meetings, except for 2 members of AKTA who are not from Ka’u joining the Ka’u Hawaiian Civic Club, no effort was made to meet with the Kupuna and families who have consistently followed their customary traditions above, within, or on the coast of the Ala Kahakai. No effort was made to meet with the other civic organizations listed as stakeholders or the families of the impacted ahupua’a.

**KA’U COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

At the same time, between the Aha Moku participants, the Multicultural Society of Ka’u (which includes Hawaiian Homes beneficiaries), the Ka’u Hawaiian Civic Club, the Ka’u Advisory Council (which includes the Pele Defense and the Kupuna Council), and the Ka’u Kuleana Group, twenty-four (24) open zoom meetings were held, once and sometimes twice a week; and three (3) in-person community meetings were held from the end of January 2021 until April 18, 2021.

A result of these meetings, and in the interest of trying to work with AKTA to establish a trust that was not present due to the actions of AKTA in the Ka’u lands of Waikapuna which they had already acquired in 2018, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was attempted. The template for the MOA was given to the Aha Moku by the Director of the Legacy Lands as a guide to assist in this mitigation effort. The signers would have been AKTA and the organizations impacted. Mr. Fox was apprised of this and agreed to be a signer. The draft would be sent to Fox, and all sides would work on this.

An in-person community meeting was held on March 6, 2021 where generational Kupuna of the families of Kawala, Kiolaka’a, Waiohinu and Kamilo were present as well as Keoni Fox of AKTA and members of his stewardship committee. Specific questions by Kupuna were asked of Mr. Fox such as:

- When did the plans to purchase Kiolaka’a start? And, why did AKTA not go to the people first to become involved in the planning?
  - Answer: Plans started in 2016. There was no answer to the second part of the question.
- Whose version of Ka’u is AKTA protecting?
o Answer: AKTA just wants to protect Kupuna and the natural resources.

• Given the current AKTA practices in Waikapuna where locals are not allowed in unless they fill out a complicated and long permit application, why should we trust you or the people you are currently partnering with?
  o Answer: Keoni loves Ka’u! Trust is needed!
• How will AKTA be held accountable to the people once you own the land?
  o Answer: Trust is needed!

Other questions were asked, and the answers were the same – generally, the people were told to trust in AKTA. However, the people left the meeting not satisfied with answers given and more determined to oppose. This was unfortunate as this was the last hope Kupuna had that AKTA could be supported in a face-to-face meeting with Keoni Fox and his stewardship committee members. These Kupuna are the community and representatives of the families in the impacted ahupua’a, as well as neighboring ahupua’a. (Note: the proposed MOA was discarded after this meeting by the Kupuna who did not believe it would be honored if completed)

**LEGACY LANDS CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**

On March 31, 2021, the Legacy Land Conservation Committee (LLCC) held a meeting to Review and Reconsider Commission Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Award for the Ala Kahakai Trail Association as this issue was to come before the Land Board in April.

The only Agenda Action Item listed was to Review and Reconsider Commission Recommendation for FY 2021 for the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, $1,475,000 for acquisition of approximately 1,841 acres at Ka’u, Hawai’i (Kiolaka’a), Tax Map Key Numbers (3) 9-4-001:008. :009, 016, 017, and :023.

The meeting, as it was organized by its staff was unwieldy and confusing to the people. There was a system of rounds of testifiers (probably because of the number of people testifying) where all who supported the AKTA could testify first, and everyone after that. No one was familiar with this system, and it caused Kupuna to wait for hours to testify. Further, all chat was put into blackout, and no one could contribute to the chat function. When questioned, staff stated that only Commissioners could chat, not the public. Testifiers felt the system used was disrespectful to Kupuna and slanted towards approval of the acquisition.

After much discussion, and after allowing Kupuna to state, “It is difficult for outsiders to come to Ka’u to tell Ka’u how to protect their resources. The Ka’u community must be the driving force, not outsiders. We need to practice the correct protocol of our culture and our place!”, a Motion of the LLCC was taken:

“That the LLCC reaffirm the ranking made in Meeting #69 with a condition to include all Ka’u, including but not limited to the Ka’u Kupuna Council, the Ka’u Hawaiian Civic Club, the Ka’u Multicultural Society, the Ka’u Kuleana, and the Pele Defense.”

The Motion was Adopted with votes from the following LLCC Commissioners:

**6 Ayes:** Butch Haase, Chair (member of a Land Conservation Organization); John Stinton, VC (Scientific); Patrick Hart (Hawai’i, Natural Areas Reserves System Commission, Scientific, Ex-officio); Jacob Tavares (Maui, Member of a Statewide Agricultural Association); Rick Warshauer (Hawai’i, Scientific); Kaui Lucas (O’ahu, Member of an Environmental Organization and Member of a Land Conservation Organization); Berly Blaich (Kauai, Member of an Environmental Organization and Member of a Land Conservation Organization); Commissioner Wendy Wiltse (Scientific) was excused.
1 No: Kanoe Wilson (Hawai‘i, Knowledgeable about Hawaiian culture) Note: Commissioner Wilson, in a courageous step to support the native Hawaiian cultural protocols and traditional customary practices of Ka‘u expressed her disappointment that Kupuna knowledge of that place was not held in higher esteem as is traditionally correct in the native Hawaiian culture. In Ka‘u, this is critically important. It is further noted that most of the LLCC Commissioners, in their quest to be as fair as they could, asked that the Ka‘u community be added to the management plan as a condition of approval. However, per Kupuna, their perception of “fairness” is based solely on their own experiences and expertise that is focused primarily on western science, environment and conservation. Unfortunately, they did not take into consideration the only LLCC Commissioner whose expertise is Hawaiian culture.

The result of the LLCC meeting was that the people who attended left the meeting disheartened, let-down, and more determined than ever to oppose this acquisition.

AHA MOBU RECOMMENDATION

We have outlined the results of in-depth consultations with native Hawaiian generational and traditional families and practitioners who have, over many life-times, and continue, to customarily honor the mauka and makai lands of Kiolaka‘a in ho‘ili‘ili (gathering), lawai‘a (fishing), mahiai (farming), la‘au lapa‘au (medicinal) and many other disciplines that make up native Hawaiian customary practices of that place.

We have brought forward the voices of the Kupuna and their ‘ohana of the generational families of the ahupua‘a of Kiolaka‘a, Waiohinu, Kawelo and Kamilo who have never left this ‘aina and continue to pass down their practices to their keiki, and mo‘opuna. These Kupuna have sincerely tried to connect to AKTA and were unsuccessful. They do not believe in AKTA’s empty promises of being included in any stewardship plans for Kiolaka‘a as they were not included in any stewardship for Waikapuna or Manaka‘a. They fear that the practices they hold so dear will not be available for future generations if they continue to be denied access to the coastline where their fishing koa are, or to their sacred wahi pana and gathering areas that are mauka of the trail.

Again, ancient protocol has never changed! The Ka‘u people are comprised of their beliefs and are themselves an integral part of the natural resources and cannot be separated from them because the Akua, the land and the people are one.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku strongly opposes this acquisition and urges the Land Board to deny this application.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to again share the deep feelings and concerns of the native Hawaiian generational and traditional practitioners and communities of Ka‘u. It is deeply appreciated.

Respectfully and humbly yours,

Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, Ka Mea Ho‘okumu, Hawaii State Aha Moku
Phone: 808-382-6043, Email: kahalelehua@outlook.com

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Aloha Beck, Kiolaka’a Ahupua’a, Aha Moku Representative of Ka‘u
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Phone: 808-339-0289, Email: konawaileo@yahoo.com

Jesse Ke, Kupuna Pa’au’au Mauka Ahupua’a, Aha Moku Representative of Ka’u
Kehaulani Kawaiula Ke, Pa’au’au Mauka Ahupua’a, Aha Moku Representative of Ka’u
Kehau Ke, Kapapala Ahupua’a, Aha Moku Representative of Ka’u
Wendy Napoleon, Keawa/Makapua Ahupua’a, Aha Moku Representative of Ka’u
Phone: 808-928-8917, Email: kupuna_ke0562@yahoo.com

Jeffrey Kekoa, Kupuna, Palima Ahupua’a, Aha Moku Representative of Ka’u
Hawaiian Homes Association of Ka’u, President
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Phone: 808-640-1214, Email: Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov
April 22, 2021

State of Hawai‘i
Board of Land and Natural Resources
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Re: SUPPORT for Agenda Item C2(B): ALA KAHAKAI TRAIL ASSOCIATION, $1,475,000, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 1,841.3 ACRES AT KA'Ū, HAWAI'I (KIOLAKA'A), TAX MAP KEY NUMBERS: (3) 9-4-01:008:009, :016, :017, AND :023

Aloha Chair Case and Members of the Board,

My name is ‘Āina Akamu and I was born and raised in Ka'ū. My mo‘okū‘auhau traces back to Kekūhaupi'o and Pine, and my ‘ohana has lived in Ka’ū for 67 generations. My dad was a truck driver and electrician for Ka‘u Sugar, an alumni of Nā‘ālehu Elementary and Ka‘u High School. My mom is pure Hawaiian from Kapa'au, North Kohala, born to parents who met, married and lived at the Hansen's Disease settlement at Kalaupapa; and worked at the Punalu'u Black Sands Restaurant and Pick and Pay at Nā‘ālehu Shopping Center. I was primarily raised by my paternal grandmother, Mae Kalilinoeokalani Macomber Kapika Akamu, who spoke to me in Hawaiian, was part of the first group of Hawaiian Studies kupuna teaching in the Ka‘u schools in 1978, and passed on to me many Hawaiian traditions such as lā'au lapa'au, mea kanu, mea kaua, kapa, waiho'olu'u, hula, mele, lei making and other hana no'eau and sacred kuleana that I continue in my ‘ohana until today.

After attending Nā‘ālehu Elementary school through grade 6, I attended boarding school and graduated from Kamehameha-Kapālama with an Honors Diploma, graduated Cum Laude with a B.A. in Linguistics and Theater from Dartmouth College with a focus on Hawaiian Grammar and Dialectology, a M.A. in Teaching from the University of Southern California with an emphasis on bilingual and social studies education, and a Teaching Certificate from the University of Hawai‘i in Career & Technical Education with a specialization in Industrial Engineering Technology, Building & Construction, and Design and Drafting.

I currently teach Engineering, Construction, Culinary Arts, Agriculture, and Entrepreneurship, and I am the new Ag Program Director at Ka‘u High School. I am also a faculty member in the Hawaiian Studies Department at Hawai‘i Community College in Hilo, where I Hawaiian Studies classes through the Early College program for Ka‘u High School students. I also chair the Education Committee and serve as Kākau ʻŌlelo (secretary & webmaster) for the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka‘u, am a member of Kauaha'ao Congregational Church which was built by my kupuna and where they rest today, and a community volunteer and land steward doing what I can to ensure the conservation and protection of our natural, cultural, and historical resources for the next 67 generations of my ‘ohana - in the same way my ‘ohana has preserved Ka‘u for me.

It is very uncomfortable for me to share all of this with you because I was raised to pa‘a ka waha (shut the mouth), nānā ka maka (watch with the eyes), ho’olohe ka pepeiao (listen with the ears) and then hana ka lima (work the hands) because ma ka hana ka ‘ike (in the doing is the knowledge). I am not one to talk or write a lot, or get involved loudly with various community issues, but you can rest assured that at 5am when it is time to E ‘ala e, I will be there, with my gloves and boots, ready to work. I am someone who is more comfortable being quiet and unnoticed, but always there for others to listen with an open heart, to observe with a sense of makawalu (eight eyes), and then to do what I can to help.
I feel compelled to share this with you today because the issue of Kiolaka’a (and Waikapuna) has really taken a toll on members of our community. There has been a loss of trust, communication, and it feels like so many are fighting against each other although we all want the same thing - to preserve our precious wahi pana of Ka'ū. I honestly do not know what to do sometimes, because it feels like supporting the Ala Kahakai Trail Association means taking sides against my own family and members of my community. I honestly just want the land to be left alone, to be saved from any future development, and to be protected from the harm that humans do intentionally or not.

As a lineal and ancestral descendant of Kahula Kekūhaupi'o, who received from Kauikeaouli the Royal Patent for the kuleana of 349 acres of Palauhulu, who passed on that kuleana title to Kahula Macomber, who passed that kuleana title on to Mae Macomber Akamu, who passed that kuleana title on to me, I stand with them today and every day. Of the hundreds of great-great-great grandchildren in my ‘ohana, I am the one who holds the palapala that Kahula once held, and was directly given the sacred kauoha and kuleana of protecting the iwi kupuna of my ‘ohana. I live on my ancestral lands in Ka'ū - and I look out over the Kiolaka’a property every day. My kuleana lands extend down to Ka’alu’alu road and borders the Kiolaka’a property. The current “landowner” of a portion of my own kuleana lands is preparing for future development, which is another fight I am preparing for in a spiritual manner. In my own ‘ohana, I know that my ancestors support any efforts to save these lands from any development.

As a member of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka'ū, I have done my best to bring forward any information to our club members and have shared all the relevant information on our website. Our club is currently 52 years old, we have monthly meetings, and our membership is open to all. We are a transparent Hawaiian community-based organization that has endured for many years and, through the pandemic, has managed the transition to Zoom meetings for our club. There are members of our club who oppose acquisition of Kiolaka’a by ATA, but still want these lands saved. We also have members who support ATA’s acquisition, and are willing to work with ATA and serve on their Stewardship committees, attend their meetings, and be a conduit of information to our community. It is challenging to stay neutral, but in the end, for me, it is not about a person or a group, but about saving these lands from future development.

Personally, I came to support ATA’s acquisition when I asked if they would return these lands to the Hawaiian Kingdom once it was reestablished and the military occupation of Hawai‘i ends. I was assured that if any Ka'ū non-profit could take over, they would gladly transfer the deed to another group’s care. Additionally, if the Hawaiian Kingdom was returned prior to that happening, the lands would be returned to the Hawaiian Kingdom and the Ka'ū representatives or konohiki would then take on that responsibility. To me, this gives me enough trust that I have worked with ATA, have attended their meetings, and as of yet, do not have any concerns about ATA developing the lands, or restricting any traditional and cultural uses of these lands.

I know there are still concerns. I will continue to do what I can to help bring information to my community, and to uphold the kuleana given to me by my kupunahine. I was raised to know that it is not my place to claim my rights to something, but rather that I have responsibility to uphold and to ensure that the rights of the lands are held in highest esteem.

He aliʻi ka ‘āina, he kauwā ke kanaka.  
Aloha, a koe no nā pua.

ʻĀina Akamu
Aloha Friends,

Please buy the land at Kiolaka'a to protect it. My name is Alohi and I want to save this land for kids to have fun with their families. Endangered Hawksbill turtles nest there too.

Sincerely,

Alohi 9
1. **Who is Ala Kahakai Trail Association? What is your mission?**

Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) is a registered non-profit and recognized Native Hawaiian Organization (NHO), based on Hawai‘i Island, and established in 2008. Our mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present and future.

- Our board is made up of mostly descendants with ancestral ties to geographic sections of the trail and our goal is to connect our communities with the trail through preservation and community-based management.
- We hope to grow our board membership in the Ka‘ū District given our recent work in the community. Currently, Keoni Fox serves as a volunteer board member representing the Ka‘ū District. Keoni is part-time resident of both Waikāne, O‘ahu and Na‘alehu, Ka‘ū. Keoni through his mother’s family, Keanu, is a lineal descendant of Kahilipali, Kāwala and Kaunāmano.

2. **Is ATA apart of the federal government or the National Park Service?**

**NO.** ATA has always been a completely separate, independent nonprofit entity from the National Park Service. While ATA hopes to work with NPS to ensure the trail is protected, respected and connected to community, ATA is not controlled by or beholden to NPS.

ATA partners with different government agencies, non-profit organizations and community groups in an effort to collaboratively protect our island’s trail system and its surrounding natural and cultural landscapes.

3. **Why is it so urgent to protect the Kaʻū Coast? What do we risk if leave these lands alone?**

Kaunāmano, Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a are in imminent danger of development. For many years, the Kaʻū community has advocated for the protection of the entire 80 miles of coastline, a goal reflected in the Kaʻū Community Development Plan (CDP). With the closure of Kaʻū Agribusiness at the turn of the century, many large properties along the coastline were sold to real estate developers and land speculators. Over the last few years, several of these properties have been purchased for preservation. With only a handful of remaining privately owned properties at risk of development, this vision of protecting the entire Kaʻū coastline can be achieved.

**Kaunāmano:** The landowner is selling all of his Hawai‘i Island properties – a portfolio which included other nearby properties recently sold to foreign investors.

- The previous owner proposed a 47-lot subdivision consisting of 20-acre “gentleman estates”.
- 2005 -- County Planning exempted the development from SMA permit requirements. *Kaunāmano descendants appealed, and as a result, the County required an SMA Use Permit application.*
- 2009 -- The prior owner withdrew their subdivision application.
- The current landowner prefers to sell for preservation. **However, he will continue to list and market the property until the funds are secured.**
**Kiolaka‘a:** The landowner has completed a boundary survey of the property and submitted an application to consolidate and re-subdivide the property into 20 lots.

- *County Planning granted the owner’s request for a variance from road and water infrastructure requirements.*
- *SHPD initially required a full Archeological Inventory Survey (AIS) of the entire property. The owner’s attorneys appealed the decision claiming economic hardship. SHPD granted an exception, only requiring a survey of archeological resources within the subdivision’s 100-foot wide roadway corridor.*
- *Due to permitting delays, plans to subdivide the property have been shelved and the property was listed for sale for $2.95 M. **Subdivision of the property is still a possibility.***

**Manāka‘a:** The landowner has submitted multiple applications to consolidate and subdivide the property since 2004.

- *2007 -- The owner was granted a SMA minor permit for the proposed subdivision without completing an Archeological Inventory Survey (AIS).*
- *Kāwala descendants contested the approval, and the County deferred action, pending SHPD approval of archaeological mitigation.*
- *After the AIS was completed, the owner completed a burial treatment plan, which has not yet been implemented.*
- *2013-16 -- The owner submitted additional applications to County.*
- *2018 -- The owner again submitted a SHPD application for road improvements to access this makai parcel through the mauka parcel. **This property is currently listed for sale by the owner.**

*While the threat of sale and development is real for all of these properties, if we can raise the public funding, agree on price, and meet these landowners’ timelines, they are willing to sell for preservation.*

4. **How did ATA become the proposed future “owner” of these lands?**

The State, County, and National Park Service have all declined to take on “fee ownership” of these lands because they felt they did not have the capacity to own and manage these lands.

*It was never ATA’s goal to “own” this ʻāina.* “Ownership” is a western concept that we are not comfortable with. We see ourselves as space holders, holding these lands in trust for the community. The kuleana of nonprofit “ownership” was reluctantly taken on by ATA, as a last resort, with the commitment and vision that, if preservation was successful, these lands and resources would forever be managed and stewarded by the community itself.

5. **Could another nonprofit “own” these lands in the future?**

**YES.** If in the future there is a Ka‘ū-based nonprofit that has the organizational capacity and commitment to carry the kuleana of owning these lands (e.g., pay for insurance, apply for non-profit real property tax exemptions, comply with public funding deed restrictions and conservation easement requirements, maintain its non-profit and tax exempt status, file taxes, draft and file reports required by funding agencies, work with the community on management and stewardship), ATA is open to working with that organization to go before the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the County to request consent for the transfer of the deed to said qualified nonprofit entity.
6. How can the community and other nonprofits participate in decision-making, stewardship and management of Waikapuna and other lands that may be protected in the future?

ATA has a Kaʻū-based Stewardship Committee/Hui which is comprised of Kaʻū residents and descendants to guide our stewardship and community management planning process for Waikapuna. These community members include: Shalan Crysdale, Nohea Kaawa, Michelle Galimba, Kaohi Mokuhalii, Jodie Rosam, Megan Lamson, Pele Harman and Leilani Rodrigues.

- **Open Invitation for Kaʻū Organizations to Join our Stewardship Committee**
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7. Will ATA be developing a Community Management Plan for Waikapuna?

**YES.** In all of our public funding applications, we committed to developing a Community Management Plan within 18 months of closing, if the conservation acquisition is successful. The 18 months was built in because it is difficult to get funds for management planning unless you first “own” the land. Also, landowners would likely get upset if we started doing extensive community management planning on land that the private landowner still owns.

- “Ownership” of Waikapuna was transferred to ATA in December 2019.
- The County is currently in the process of hiring a consultant to develop a management plan for Waikapuna, and part of that process will be extensive outreach and consultation with the Kaʻū community.
- ATA welcomes all Kaʻū-based ‘ohana, nonprofits, and community groups to participate in the Community Management planning process which will be facilitated by a planning consultant hired by the County.

8. How can people access Waikapuna? Why is vehicular access managed and monitored?

**Pedestrian/Hiking Access:** Currently, there is open pedestrian access into Waikapuna via the Ala Kahakai Trail from the adjacent State-owned lands to the south at Kamilo and north at Kāwala. All members of the public have the right to use that trail access. There are no gates or fences along the entire 3.5 mile boundary between Waikapuna and the State-owned Waiʻōhinu property.

**Vehicular access** to Waikapuna Bay is provided via an access easement which crosses over the adjacent Kāwala property privately owned by Kuahiwi Ranch. The Ranch provides vehicular access to Waikapuna through their cattle gates located on the adjacent Kāwala property. The 4-mile long dirt road leading to Waikapuna crosses through a series of cattle pastures and gates. A four-wheel drive vehicle with a high clearance is required to safely navigate the road.
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For safety reasons and in order to protect cultural and natural resources, vehicular access is limited to one group with no more than three vehicles per weekend. Occasional weekday access may be granted depending upon the schedule. Drivers must demonstrate familiarity with ranch roads. All individuals must sign a liability waiver and acknowledge rules respecting natural and cultural resources. The key is available for pick up and drop off at the Kuahiwi Ranch office in Naalehu at no charge. This interim process is posted on our website.

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Both the State Legacy Land Program and the County PONC program are designed not just to protect cultural and natural resources but also agricultural resources.

Preserving agricultural land is a core objective in the Kaʻū Community Development Plan (CDP). “Objective 2: Preserve prime and other viable agricultural lands and preserve and enhance viewscapes that exemplify Kaʻū’s rural character.” “Objective 10: Encourage and enhance agriculture, ranching, and related economic infrastructure.”

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For the most part, cattle tend to stay on the grassy, mauka portions of the property where they can graze and access drinking water, not on the dry makai sections of the property that are dominated by lava fields and cultural sites.

Local ranch licensees are committed to working together with ATA and the broader community to ensure that cattle grazing can co-exist and complement the preservation of cultural and natural resources. This may include ranchers fencing culturally and environmentally sensitive areas and/or adjusting the location and acreage of a pasture license to keep cattle out of sensitive areas. We need the community’s help to identify sensitive sites that need to be protected.

For additional information, please contact:
Keoni Fox, Director: fox@alakahaitrail.org
ATA website: www.alakahaitrail.org
PROTECTING THE KAʻŪ COAST: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Who is Ala Kahakai Trail Association? What is your mission?**

   Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) is a registered non-profit and recognized Native Hawaiian Organization (NHO), based on Hawai‘i Island, and established in 2008. Our mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present and future.
   - Our board is made up of mostly descendants with ancestral ties to geographic sections of the trail and our goal is to connect our communities with the trail through preservation and community-based management.
   - We hope to grow our board membership in the Kaʻū District given our recent work in the community. Currently, Keoni Fox serves as a volunteer board member representing the Kaʻū District. Keoni is part-time resident of both Waikāne, O’ahu and Na’alehu, Kaʻū. Keoni through his mother’s family, Keanu, is a lineal descendant of Kahilipali, Kāwala and Kaunāmano.

2. **Is ATA apart of the federal government or the National Park Service?**

   **NO.** ATA has always been a completely separate, independent nonprofit entity from the National Park Service. While ATA hopes to work with NPS to ensure the trail is protected, respected and connected to community, ATA is not controlled by or beholden to NPS.

   ATA partners with different government agencies, non-profit organizations and community groups in an effort to collaboratively protect our island’s trail system and its surrounding natural and cultural landscapes.

3. **Why is it so urgent to protect the Kaʻū Coast? What do we risk if leave these lands alone?**

   Kaunāmano, Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a are in imminent danger of development. For many years, the Kaʻū community has advocated for the protection of the entire 80 miles of coastline, a goal reflected in the Kaʻū Community Development Plan (CDP). With the closure of Kaʻū Agribusiness at the turn of the century, many large properties along the coastline were sold to real estate developers and land speculators. Over the last few years, several of these properties have been purchased for preservation. With only a handful of remaining privately owned properties at risk of development, this vision of protecting the entire Kaʻū coastline can be achieved.

   **Kaunāmano:** The landowner is selling all of his Hawai‘i Island properties – a portfolio which included other nearby properties recently sold to foreign investors.
   - **The previous owner proposed a 47-lot subdivision consisting of 20-acre “gentleman estates”.
   - **2005 -- County Planning exempted the development from SMA permit requirements. Kaunāmano descendants appealed, and as a result, the County required an SMA Use Permit application.**
   - **2009 -- The prior owner withdrew their subdivision application.**
   - **The current landowner prefers to sell for preservation. However, he will continue to list and market the property until the funds are secured.**

For additional information, please contact:
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ATA website: www.alakahakaitrail.org
**Kiolaka’a:** The landowner has completed a boundary survey of the property and submitted an application to consolidate and re-subdivide the property into 20 lots.
- County Planning granted the owner’s request for a variance from road and water infrastructure requirements.
- SHPD initially required a full Archeological Inventory Survey (AIS) of the entire property. The owner’s attorneys appealed the decision claiming economic hardship. SHPD granted an exception, only requiring a survey of archeological resources within the subdivision’s 100-foot wide roadway corridor.
- Due to permitting delays, plans to subdivide the property have been shelved and the property was listed for sale for $2.95 M. **Subdivision of the property is still a possibility.**

**Manāka’a:** The landowner has submitted multiple applications to consolidate and subdivide the property since 2004.
- 2007 -- The owner was granted a SMA minor permit for the proposed subdivision without completing an Archeological Inventory Survey (AIS).
- Kāwala descendants contested the approval, and the County deferred action, pending SHPD approval of archaeological mitigation.
- After the AIS was completed, the owner completed a burial treatment plan, which has not yet been implemented.
- 2013-16 -- The owner submitted additional applications to County.
- 2018 -- The owner again submitted a SHPD application for road improvements to access this makai parcel through the mauka parcel. **This property is currently listed for sale by the owner.**

While the threat of sale and development is real for all of these properties, if we can raise the public funding, agree on price, and meet these landowners’ timelines, they are willing to sell for preservation.

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4. **How did ATA become the proposed future “owner” of these lands?**

The State, County, and National Park Service have all declined to take on “fee ownership” of these lands because they felt they did not have the capacity to own and manage these lands.

**It was never ATA’s goal to “own” this ʻāina.** “Ownership” is a western concept that we are not comfortable with. We see ourselves as space holders, holding these lands in trust for the community. The kuleana of nonprofit “ownership” was reluctantly taken on by ATA, as a last resort, with the commitment and vision that, if preservation was successful, these lands and resources would forever be managed and stewarded by the community itself.

5. **Could another nonprofit “own” these lands in the future?**

**YES.** If in the future there is a Ka’ū-based nonprofit that has the organizational capacity and commitment to carry the kuleana of owning these lands (e.g., pay for insurance, apply for non-profit real property tax exemptions, comply with public funding deed restrictions and conservation easement requirements, maintain its non-profit and tax exempt status, file taxes, draft and file reports required by funding agencies, work with the community on management and stewardship), ATA is open to working with that organization to go before the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the County to request consent for the transfer of the deed to said qualified nonprofit entity.
6. **How can the community and other nonprofits participate in decision-making, stewardship and management of Waikapuna and other lands that may be protected in the future?**

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Summary of Kaʻū Community Outreach
Kiolakaʻa

On January 22, 2021, the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) deferred a decision to approve grant awards for Fiscal Year 2021 Legacy Land Conservation Program funding for Kiolakaʻa. BLNR instructed the applicant, Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) to do further community engagement with the goal of creating more of a collaborative community driven preservation effort. Chair Case encouraged everyone who participated in the BLNR meeting “to talk to each other pretty seriously and try to sort this out in a way that gets as much agreement as possible.”

ATA is committed to addressing questions and concerns raised at the BLNR meeting in order to unite the community as much as possible and to satisfy the request of the Board. Since the BLNR meeting in January, ATA has conducted extensive community engagement and outreach which has included: reaching out to individuals who testified in opposition to the LLCP grant funding and inviting them to meet and talk story; scheduling phone, zoom and in-person meetings with community members; organizing and hosting two community meetings (February 16 and April 19), facilitated by an independent facilitator and advertised widely to the broader Kaʻū community which was attended by over 60 people and over 40 people respectively; presenting to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Kaʻū at its monthly meetings; sharing at the Hawaiʻi Island Burial Council; conducting a site visit with Representative Jeanne Kapela; meeting with members of the Aha Moku Council of Kaʻū including kupuna and individuals who were opposed; setting up a booth to engage with community members at the local ʻO Kaʻū Kākou Farmer’s Market in Naʻalehu; and meeting with Senator Mazie Hirono and an advisor for Senator Brian Schatz, both Senators introduced federal legislation to protect the Kaʻū coastline in 2013; and meeting with Congressman Ed Case who in March 2005, asked the National Park Service to conduct a reconnaissance survey of approximately eighty miles of coastline in South Kona and Kaʻū to evaluate this area’s resources for inclusion in the national park system.

Through these outreach and engagement efforts, the community sentiment has been one of overwhelming community support to protect the Kaʻū coastline (including iwi kūpuna, cultural sites, and sensitive ecosystems) from development, including broad support for ATA’s efforts to protect and acquire these parcels.

The community feels that public access should be managed to protect the land’s cultural and natural resources, but that managed access should not negatively impact cultural and subsistence activities along the coastline (gathering, fishing, etc.). The community feels that vehicular access should be managed to prevent overuse, damage, and degradation of natural and cultural resources due to the potential negative impacts of recreational access.

The community understands that while there may be varying opinions about issues such as the extent and details of managed public access, the need to secure public funding to protect the land now is of
utmost importance and outweighs management issues which can and will be resolved through a community management planning process, if the land is successfully protected. The community has also expressed that if ATA is successful in protecting these parcels, they want to be included as an integral part of ATA’s community management planning process and stewardship efforts.

While we worked hard to establish a dialogue, to listen, to take suggestions seriously, to find common ground, and to get as much consensus as possible, there are still individuals in the community who do not support the grant award for this preservation purchase, although they have expressed support for the protection of the coastline. ATA reached out consistently to these individuals by phone and email inviting them to talk story or go huaka’i to the coast. Some refused to meet and calls and voicemails were not answered. The only time they agreed to meet was on March 6th. Some have conveyed feelings of hurt and mistrust due to a history of marginalization. They wish that a Ka’ū nonprofit could be the fee owner of these lands. We understand their pain and skepticism. We acknowledge that the history of Ka’ū has been full of examples of foreign and corporate interests laying claim to land at the expense of community and their sense of self-determination. Our intention is truly to be a space holder so that the Ka’ū community can lead and steward and we propose to keep this option open so that a Ka’ū nonprofit might someday step into the kuleana of ownership. To address these community concerns, we have proposed several commitments for the Board’s consideration.

We respectfully request that BLNR approve FY 2021 LLCP funding for Kiolaka’a and include a condition in the Grant Agreement that states:

If the Kiolaka’a conservation acquisition is successful, Ala Kakahai Trail Association commits to:

1. An inclusive community management planning process for Kiolaka’a which will likely be facilitated and drafted by an independent planning consultant hired by the County of Hawai’i who will hold the Conservation Easement
2. Inviting Ka’ū descendants, residents, non-profits, community groups, ranchers, and anyone who has a relationship to Kiolaka’a to participate in the community management planning process
3. Inviting Ka’ū descendants, residents, and organizations to partner on stewardship projects for Kiolaka’a and/or participate on the Stewardship Committee
4. Adding additional board members that are Ka’ū residents
5. Hosting quarterly community meetings to keep the Ka’ū community updated about its land protection efforts
6. If in the future, a Ka’ū nonprofit has the capacity to carry the kuleana of owning these lands, meets State and County requirements, and the community supports this, the Association is open to working with that nonprofit to request BLNR and County approval to transfer the deed

Timeline of Ka’ū Community Outreach

1/22/2021  BLNR Meeting
1/25/2021  Draft Contact List of Testimony in Opposition (Names, Emails, Phone Numbers)
1/27/2021 - 1/28/2021  ATA was contacted and exchanged messages with Vivian-Malia Moana Fa’agata who shared her thoughts through social media
1/27/2021  ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Nohea Kaawa, talked with Vivian-Malia Moana Faʻagata by phone to try to address her questions and concerns.

2/04/2021  DLNR LLCP determined that testifiers’ contact email addresses cannot be disclosed as it is considered personal information.

1/29/2021  ATA Sent Email Invitation to community members who testified in opposition (to either Kaunamano or Kiolaka’a) inviting them to meet by phone or zoom. See attached email.

1/29 – 2/10  ATA Called, left voicemail messages, and texted community members who testified in opposition, inviting them to meet or talk over the phone. Several people responded and ATA scheduled meetings with those individuals right away. All of these discussions were very positive. A few people shared they were not ready or willing to talk. The rest did not respond. ATA made every effort to engage in a dialogue with these community members. Detailed records of our outreach are available upon request.

2/2/2021  ATA & TPL Met with Sandra Demoruelle, of Green Sands Subdivision by phone. Sandra was opposed but is now a supporter of the project.

2/3/2021  ATA & TPL Met with Malialuika Pualeilehua Gentry by phone. She was opposed but is now willing to assist with stewardship and consultation for preservation.

2/5/2021  ATA Met with Ann Bosted (The Cave Conservancy of Hawaii) by phone. She is a supporter.

2/5/2021  ATA Kaʻū Stewardship Committee Meeting

2/7/2021  ATA Led a hike as part of a meeting with Margaret McGuire (former Secretary, Pele Defense Fund) and Alison Yahna, both of Green Sands Subdivision.

2/8/2021  ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Michelle Galimba, talked with Kaweni Ibarra in person to better understand his questions and concerns.

2/8/2021  ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Nohea Kaawa, talked with Joel Velez in person to try to address his questions and concerns.

2/8/2021  ATA Sent Email Invitation for Community Meeting. See attached email.

2/10-2/15  Advertised Community Meeting in Kaʻū Calendar.
  • Announcement here
  • News brief here

2/9/2021  ATA & TPL Met with Kala Mossman by phone. Kala was opposed but is now a supporter of the project.

2/10/2021  ATA met with Wendy Vance (President, Hoʻomalu Kaʻū) in person. She supports the project.
2/10/2021  ATA Volunteer and Supporter, LaVanda Kainoa Salvador spoke with Debi Javar by phone to try to address her questions and concerns.

2/11/2021  ATA Shared at the Nā Ala Hele Trail Advisory Council Meeting (virtual)

2/12/2021  ATA Presented at the 10th Annual Wiliwili Tree Festival hosted by the Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative (virtual)

2/14/2021  ATA met with Kawehi Ryder (Executive Director, Uhane Pohaku Na Moku of Hawaii) and Kumu Hula Debbie Ryder (Halau Hula O Leionalani) in person. They both support the project.

2/15/2021  ATA Volunteer and Supporter, Laakea Suganuma, met with Kawaikapuokalani Hewitt (Aha Moku Council Lehua) by phone to try to address his questions and concerns.

2/15/2021  Aha Moku requested a meeting with TPL by zoom
• Aha Moku would not allow ATA Board Members, Keoni Fox and Kaleo Paik to participate
• 8 Attendees: Leimana DaMate, Kawaikapu, Rocky, Darlyne Vierra, Jeff Kekoa, Kaweni Ibarra, Reyna Ramolete Hayashi (TPL), Lea Hong (TPL)
• TPL gave a short presentation and addressed questions and concerns. It was a productive meeting.

2/16/2021  ATA hosted First Kaʻū Community Meeting
• Facilitated by Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED). HACBED helped with the Kaʻū Community Development Plan in 2017.
• Over 60 attendees. See attached list.
• See updates to ATA website with: Video Recording, Powerpoint, Summary of Themes
• All who attended the meeting were overwhelmingly in favor of protecting the coast, and supportive of the conservation projects. Some participants were frustrated that those who expressed opposition didn’t attend the meeting to share their concerns and engage in a dialogue. While there was productive discussion about the extent and details of how to best manage public access, there was strong consensus that the need to secure public funding to protect the land now outweighs management issues which can and will be resolved through a community management planning process.

2/16-2/17  Kaʻū Calendar coverage of Community Meeting
• Kaʻū 2/16 news brief here
• Kaʻū 2/16 news brief here

2/17/2021  ATA Outreach at ‘O Kaʻū Kākou Na’alehu Farmers Market
• Set up a booth and shared fact sheet, map, frequently asked questions
• 145 community members signed in support. See Hui o Waikapuna testimony.
• ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Jodie Rosam, talked with Olivia Ling in person to try to address her concerns and questions.

2/18/2021 ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Jodie Rosam, had a second meeting with Olivia Ling in person to further discuss her concerns.

2/18/2021 ATA Shared at Hawai‘i Island Burial Council Meeting (virtual)
- The Ka‘ū Burial Council Representative, Scott Mahoney, is supportive of the project and has attended many site visits.

2/18/2021 ATA Presented to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka‘ū (virtual)
- 16 Attendees: Berkeley Yoshida (President), Paulette Ke (Vice President), Aina Akamu (Secretary), Moana Deleon (Treasurer), Jeanette Howard (Director), Nadine Ebert (Director), Halani Berard (Director), Darlyne Vierra, Kainoa Sharpe, June Chow, Cathy Arnold, Leina’ala Enos, Kaleo Paik, Keoni Fox, Jodie Rosam, Pele Harman

2/21/2021 ATA met with Megan Lamson, (Executive Director, Hawaii Wildlife Fund) by phone. She supports the project.

2/23/2021 ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Pele Harman, talked with Paulette Ke (Vice President, Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka‘ū) by phone to address her questions and concerns.

2/23/2021 ATA Volunteer and Supporter, Laakea Suganuma, talked with Kenneth Makuakane, Kahu of Kawaiahao Church and song writer and leader of the Pandanus Club musical group. He supports the project.

2/24/2021 ATA Outreach at ‘O Ka‘ū Kākou Na‘alehu Farmers Market
- Set up a booth and shared fact sheet, map, frequently asked questions
- 30 community members signed in support. See Hui o Waikapuna testimony.

2/28/2021 ATA met with Roy Loando (Cattle Rancher, current Kiolaka’a pasture lessee) by phone. He is a supporter.

3/01/2021 ATA Meeting and Site Visit to Kiolaka’a and Ka’alu’alu Bay with Representative Jeanne Kapela (District 5) and her assistant, Claire Mason. Led by Jodie Rosam. Representative Kapela is a supporter.

3/02/2021 Ka‘ū Radio Station, live announcement. Project updates will be streamed online and posted on station website. Public Service Announcements played multiple times on the following dates March 17-20, 24, 31 and April 4, 6, 8, 10 and 15.

3/6/2021 Aha Moku requested an in-person meeting with ATA at Punalu’u Bakery, Na’alehu
- 12 Attendees: Darlyne Vierra, Jeff Kekoa, Aloha Beck, Leimana DaMate (Executive Director), Tanya Ibarra, Malie Ibarra, Paulette Ke, Keamalu Waltjen, Herbert Waltjen, Nohea Kaawa (ATA Stewardship Committee), Keoni Fox (ATA Board Member), Leilani Rodrigues (ATA Stewardship Committee)
It was a productive dialogue. Community members were able to ask questions and express concerns which ATA answered and addressed. Leimana DaMate suggested entering into a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement between ATA and some of these community members or perhaps another entity. She had first mentioned this memorandum in a phone conversation with ATA on February 17 and again on February 18. The memorandum was to be drafted by Aha Moku and sent to ATA for review before the meeting on March 06. However, ATA did not receive any draft memorandum from Aha Moku.

3/10/2021 ATA met with John Kalua’u, President of Native Hawaiian General Services and DHHL Kamaoa Pastoral Lessee, by phone. He supports the project.

3/11/2021 ATA met with Senator Mazie Hirono as part of the Annual Hike the Hill Conference in Washington DC, a joint effort by the American Hiking Society and the Partnership for the National Trails System (virtual). She is supportive.

3/12/2021 ATA met with Keohokalole ‘Ohana (virtual). Their ‘ohana supports the project.

3/16/2021 ATA emailed an update to attendees of February 16 Community Meeting. See attached email.
  • Shared link to the Community Meeting video recordings
  • Shared copies of Power Point Slides, Summary of themes from the meeting, and Frequently Asked Questions
  • Updated the community about the need to withdraw the Manāka’a LLCP funding request due to the landowner’s timeline and the opportunity to protect Manāka’a through a privately funded conservation easement.

3/16/2021 Ka’ū Calendar coverage
  • Ka’ū 3/16 news brief [here](#)

3/18/2021 Ka’ū Radio Station, live interview and talk story with ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Jodie Rosam.

3/18/2021 ATA Presented Updates to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka’ū (virtual)
  • 16 Attendees: Berkeley Yoshida (President), Paulette Ke (Vice President), Aina Akamu (Secretary), Moana Deleon (Treasurer), Jeanette Howard (Director), Nadine Ebert (Director), Halani Berard (Director), Darlyne Vierra, Kainoa Sharpe, June Chow, Cathy Arnold, Keoni Fox, Jodie Rosam, Pele Harman, Kalani Redmayne, and Nalei Young.

3/31/2021 ATA met with Representative Ed Case as part of the Annual Hike the Hill Conference in Washington DC, a joint effort by the American Hiking Society and the Partnership for the National Trails System (virtual). He is supportive.

3/31/2021 Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 72
  • The LLCP reconvened to review and reconsider their Commission recommendation of Kiolaka’a for grant funding and consider both community support for and against the project.
• After 5 hours of testimony and thoughtful deliberation, the Commission voted (7 in favor 1 opposed) to reconfirm their recommendation and number 2 ranking for a Grant Award to the Ala Kahakai Trail Association to protect and acquire Kiolaka’a.

• The Commission included a condition that the Association make all reasonable efforts to include Ka’ū based non-profit organizations and associations, including but not limited to the following organizations, in development of a community-based management plan for the lands at Kiolaka’a: The Ka’ū Advisory Council, The Ka’ū Hawaiian Civic Club, The Ka’ū Multicultural Society, The Ka’ū Kuleana, and the Pele Defense Fund.

4/05/2021 ATA Sent Email Invitation for Community Meeting. See attached email.

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• News brief here

4/06/2021 ATA met with Christine Blackburn, Senior Advisor for Climate and Energy at Office of Senator Brian Schatz as part of the Annual Hike the Hill Conference in Washington DC, a joint effort by the American Hiking Society and the Partnership for the National Trails System (virtual). Senator Schatz is supportive.

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• Facilitated by Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED). HACBED helped with the Ka’ū Community Development Plan in 2017.
• Over 80 registered but only 40 attended due to a district wide power outage during the previously scheduled meeting on April 12.
• A video recording of the meeting will be added soon to the ATA website
• All who attended the meeting were overwhelmingly supportive of the conservation project and the community outreach conducted by ATA. Participants noted that those who expressed opposition were not in attendance to share their concerns and engage in a dialogue. Stewardship committee members provided mo’olelo and background about the cultural and natural resources including public access which would be protected through this preservation purchase. ATA addressed some of the misinformation which was being shared on social media. A summary of the community outreach efforts was discussed including proposed commitments to address community concerns.

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- Set up a booth and shared fact sheet, map, frequently asked questions
- 8 community members signed in support. See Hui o Waikapuna testimony.
Summary of Kaʻū Community Outreach
Kiolakaʻa

On January 22, 2021, the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) deferred a decision to approve grant awards for Fiscal Year 2021 Legacy Land Conservation Program funding for Kiolakaʻa. BLNR instructed the applicant, Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) to do further community engagement with the goal of creating more of a collaborative community driven preservation effort. Chair Case encouraged everyone who participated in the BLNR meeting “to talk to each other pretty seriously and try to sort this out in a way that gets as much agreement as possible.”

ATA is committed to addressing questions and concerns raised at the BLNR meeting in order to unite the community as much as possible and to satisfy the request of the Board. Since the BLNR meeting in January, ATA has conducted extensive community engagement and outreach which has included: reaching out to individuals who testified in opposition to the LLCP grant funding and inviting them to meet and talk story; scheduling phone, zoom and in-person meetings with community members; organizing and hosting two community meetings (February 16 and April 19), facilitated by an independent facilitator and advertised widely to the broader Kaʻū community which was attended by over 60 people and over 40 people respectively; presenting to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Kaʻū at its monthly meetings; sharing at the Hawaiʻi Island Burial Council; conducting a site visit with Representative Jeanne Kapela; meeting with members of the Aha Moku Council of Kaʻū including kupuna and individuals who were opposed; setting up a booth to engage with community members at the local ‘O Kaʻū Kākou Farmer’s Market in Naʻalehu; and meeting with Senator Mazie Hirono and an advisor for Senator Brian Schatz, both Senators introduced federal legislation to protect the Kaʻū coastline in 2013; and meeting with Congressman Ed Case who in March 2005, asked the National Park Service to conduct a reconnaissance survey of approximately eighty miles of coastline in South Kona and Kaʻū to evaluate this area’s resources for inclusion in the national park system.

Through these outreach and engagement efforts, the community sentiment has been one of overwhelming community support to protect the Kaʻū coastline (including iwi kūpuna, cultural sites, and sensitive ecosystems) from development, including broad support for ATA’s efforts to protect and acquire these parcels.

The community feels that public access should be managed to protect the land’s cultural and natural resources, but that managed access should not negatively impact cultural and subsistence activities along the coastline (gathering, fishing, etc.). The community feels that vehicular access should be managed to prevent overuse, damage, and degradation of natural and cultural resources due to the potential negative impacts of recreational access.

The community understands that while there may be varying opinions about issues such as the extent and details of managed public access, the need to secure public funding to protect the land now is of
utmost importance and outweighs management issues which can and will be resolved through a community management planning process, if the land is successfully protected. The community has also expressed that if ATA is successful in protecting these parcels, they want to be included as an integral part of ATA’s community management planning process and stewardship efforts.

While we worked hard to establish a dialogue, to listen, to take suggestions seriously, to find common ground, and to get as much consensus as possible, there are still individuals in the community who do not support the grant award for this preservation purchase, although they have expressed support for the protection of the coastline. ATA reached out consistently to these individuals by phone and email inviting them to talk story or go huaka’i to the coast. Some refused to meet and calls and voicemails were not answered. The only time they agreed to meet was on March 6th. Some have conveyed feelings of hurt and mistrust due to a history of marginalization. They wish that a Kaʻū nonprofit could be the fee owner of these lands. We understand their pain and skepticism. We acknowledge that the history of Kaʻū has been full of examples of foreign and corporate interests laying claim to land at the expense of community and their sense of self-determination. Our intention is truly to be a space holder so that the Kaʻū community can lead and steward and we propose to keep this option open so that a Kaʻū nonprofit might someday step into the kuleana of ownership. To address these community concerns, we have proposed several commitments for the Board’s consideration.

We respectfully request that BLNR approve FY 2021 LLCP funding for Kiolaka’a and include a condition in the Grant Agreement that states:

If the Kiolaka’a conservation acquisition is successful, Ala Kakahai Trail Association commits to:

1. An inclusive community management planning process for Kiolaka’a which will likely be facilitated and drafted by an independent planning consultant hired by the County of Hawai’i who will hold the Conservation Easement
2. Inviting Kaʻū descendants, residents, non-profits, community groups, ranchers, and anyone who has a relationship to Kiolaka’a to participate in the community management planning process
3. Inviting Kaʻū descendants, residents, and organizations to partner on stewardship projects for Kiolaka’a and/or participate on the Stewardship Committee
4. Adding additional board members that are Kaʻū residents
5. Hosting quarterly community meetings to keep the Kaʻū community updated about its land protection efforts
6. If in the future, a Kaʻū nonprofit has the capacity to carry the kuleana of owning these lands, meets State and County requirements, and the community supports this, the Association is open to working with that nonprofit to request BLNR and County approval to transfer the deed

Timeline of Kaʻū Community Outreach

1/22/2021 BLNR Meeting
1/25/2021 Draft Contact List of Testimony in Opposition (Names, Emails, Phone Numbers)
1/27-1/28 ATA was contacted and exchanged messages with Vivian-Malia Moana Faʻagata who shared her thoughts through social media
1/27/2021  ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Nohea Kaawa, talked with Vivian-Malia Moana Fa’agata by phone to try to address her questions and concerns.

2/04/2021  DLNR LLCP determined that testifiers’ contact email addresses cannot be disclosed as it is considered personal information.

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2/2/2021  ATA & TPL Met with Sandra Demoruelle, of Green Sands Subdivision by phone. Sandra was opposed but is now a supporter of the project.

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2/5/2021  ATA Kaʻū Stewardship Committee Meeting

2/7/2021  ATA Led a hike as part of a meeting with Margaret McGuire (former Secretary, Pele Defense Fund) and Alison Yahna, both of Green Sands Subdivision.

2/8/2021  ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Michelle Galimba, talked with Kaweni Ibarra in person to better understand his questions and concerns.

2/8/2021  ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Nohea Kaawa, talked with Joel Velez in person to try to address his questions and concerns.

2/8/2021  ATA Sent Email Invitation for Community Meeting. See attached email.

2/10-2/15  Advertised Community Meeting in Kaʻū Calendar.  
  - Announcement here  
  - News brief here

2/9/2021  ATA & TPL Met with Kala Mossman by phone. Kala was opposed but is now a supporter of the project.

2/10/2021  ATA met with Wendy Vance (President, Ho’omalu Kaʻū) in person. She supports the project.
2/10/2021  ATA Volunteer and Supporter, LaVanda Kainoa Salvador spoke with Debi Javar by phone to try to address her questions and concerns.

2/11/2021  ATA Shared at the Nā Ala Hele Trail Advisory Council Meeting (virtual)

2/12/2021  ATA Presented at the 10th Annual Wiliwili Tree Festival hosted by the Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative (virtual)

2/14/2021  ATA met with Kawehi Ryder (Executive Director, Uhane Pohaku Na Moku of Hawaii) and Kumu Hula Debbie Ryder (Halau Hula O Leionalani) in person. They both support the project.

2/15/2021  ATA Volunteer and Supporter, Laakea Suganuma, met with Kawaikapuokalani Hewitt (Aha Moku Council Lehua) by phone to try to address his questions and concerns.

2/15/2021  Aha Moku requested a meeting with TPL by zoom
- Aha Moku would not allow ATA Board Members, Keoni Fox and Kaleo Paik to participate
- 8 Attendees: Leimana DaMate, Kawaikapu, Rocky, Darlyne Vierra, Jeff Kekoa, Kaweni Ibarra, Reyna Ramolete Hayashi (TPL), Lea Hong (TPL)
- TPL gave a short presentation and addressed questions and concerns. It was a productive meeting.

2/16/2021  ATA hosted First Kaʻū Community Meeting
- Facilitated by Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED). HACBED helped with the Kaʻū Community Development Plan in 2017.
- Over 60 attendees. See attached list.
- See updates to ATA website with: Video Recording, Powerpoint, Summary of Themes
- All who attended the meeting were overwhelmingly in favor of protecting the coast, and supportive of the conservation projects. Some participants were frustrated that those who expressed opposition didn’t attend the meeting to share their concerns and engage in a dialogue. While there was productive discussion about the extent and details of how to best manage public access, there was strong consensus that the need to secure public funding to protect the land now outweighs management issues which can and will be resolved through a community management planning process.

2/16-2/17  Kaʻū Calendar coverage of Community Meeting
- Kaʻū 2/16 news brief here
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2/17/2021  ATA Outreach at ‘O Kaʻū Kākou Naʻalehu Farmers Market
- Set up a booth and shared fact sheet, map, frequently asked questions
- 145 community members signed in support. See Hui o Waikapuna testimony.
- ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Jodie Rosam, talked with Olivia Ling in person to try to address her concerns and questions.

2/18/2021 ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Jodie Rosam, had a second meeting with Olivia Ling in person to further discuss her concerns.

2/18/2021 ATA Shared at Hawai‘i Island Burial Council Meeting (virtual)
- The Kaʻū Burial Council Representative, Scott Mahoney, is supportive of the project and has attended many site visits.

2/18/2021 ATA Presented to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Kaʻū (virtual)
- 16 Attendees: Berkeley Yoshida (President), Paulette Ke (Vice President), Aina Akamu (Secretary), Moana Deleon (Treasurer), Jeanette Howard (Director), Nadine Ebert (Director), Halani Berard (Director), Darlyne Vierra, Kainoa Sharpe, June Chow, Cathy Arnold, Leinaʻala Enos, Kaleo Paik, Keoni Fox, Jodie Rosam, Pele Harman

2/21/2021 ATA met with Megan Lamson, (Executive Director, Hawaii Wildlife Fund) by phone. She supports the project.

2/23/2021 ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Pele Harman, talked with Paulette Ke (Vice President, Hawaiian Civic Club of Kaʻū) by phone to address her questions and concerns.

2/23/2021 ATA Volunteer and Supporter, Laakea Suganuma, talked with Kenneth Makuakane, Kahu of Kawaiaha'o Church and song writer and leader of the Pandanus Club musical group. He supports the project.

2/24/2021 ATA Outreach at ʻO Kaʻū Kākou Naʻalehu Farmers Market
- Set up a booth and shared fact sheet, map, frequently asked questions
- 30 community members signed in support. See Hui o Waikapuna testimony.

2/28/2021 ATA met with Roy Loando (Cattle Rancher, current Kiolaka’a pasture lessee) by phone. He is a supporter.

3/01/2021 ATA Meeting and Site Visit to Kiolaka’a and Ka’alu’alu Bay with Representative Jeanne Kapela (District 5) and her assistant, Claire Mason. Led by Jodie Rosam. Representative Kapela is a supporter.

3/02/2021 Kaʻū Radio Station, live announcement. Project updates will be streamed online and posted on station website. Public Service Announcements played multiple times on the following dates March 17-20, 24, 31 and April 4, 6, 8, 10 and 15.

3/6/2021 Aha Moku requested an in-person meeting with ATA at Punaluʻu Bakery, Naʻalehu
- 12 Attendees: Darlyne Vierra, Jeff Kekoa, Aloha Beck, Leimana DaMate (Executive Director), Tanya Ibarra, Malie Ibarra, Paulette Ke, Keamalu Waltjen, Herbert Waltjen, Nohea Kaawa (ATA Stewardship Committee), Keoni Fox (ATA Board Member), Leilani Rodrigues (ATA Stewardship Committee)
• It was a productive dialogue. Community members were able to ask questions and express concerns which ATA answered and addressed. Leimana DaMate suggested entering into a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement between ATA and some of these community members or perhaps another entity. She had first mentioned this memorandum in a phone conversation with ATA on February 17 and again on February 18. The memorandum was to be drafted by Aha Moku and sent to ATA for review before the meeting on March 06. However, ATA did not receive any draft memorandum from Aha Moku.

3/10/2021 ATA met with John Kalua’u, President of Native Hawaiian General Services and DHHL Kamaoa Pastoral Lessee, by phone. He supports the project.

3/11/2021 ATA met with Senator Mazie Hirono as part of the Annual Hike the Hill Conference in Washington DC, a joint effort by the American Hiking Society and the Partnership for the National Trails System (virtual). She is supportive.

3/12/2021 ATA met with Keohokalole ‘Ohana (virtual). Their ‘ohana supports the project.

3/16/2021 ATA emailed an update to attendees of February 16 Community Meeting. See attached email.
• Shared link to the Community Meeting video recordings
• Shared copies of Power Point Slides, Summary of themes from the meeting, and Frequently Asked Questions
• Updated the community about the need to withdraw the Manākaʻa LLCP funding request due to the landowner’s timeline and the opportunity to protect Manākaʻa through a privately funded conservation easement.

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Ala Kahakai Trail Association  
Summary of Kaʻū Community Outreach  
Kiolakaʻa

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- Over 60 attendees. See attached list.
- See updates to ATA website with: Video Recording, Powerpoint, Summary of Themes
- All who attended the meeting were overwhelmingly in favor of protecting the coast, and supportive of the conservation projects. Some participants were frustrated that those who expressed opposition didn’t attend the meeting to share their concerns and engage in a dialogue. While there was productive discussion about the extent and details of how to best manage public access, there was strong consensus that the need to secure public funding to protect the land now outweighs management issues which can and will be resolved through a community management planning process.

2/16-2/17  Kaʻū Calendar coverage of Community Meeting
- Kaʻū 2/16 news brief here
- Kaʻū 2/16 news brief here

2/17/2021  ATA Outreach at ‘O Kaʻū Kākou Naʻalehu Farmers Market
- Set up a booth and shared fact sheet, map, frequently asked questions
- 145 community members signed in support. See Hui o Waikapuna testimony.
- ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Jodie Rosam, talked with Olivia Ling in person to try to address her concerns and questions.

2/18/2021 ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Jodie Rosam, had a second meeting with Olivia Ling in person to further discuss her concerns.

2/18/2021 ATA Shared at Hawai‘i Island Burial Council Meeting (virtual)
   • The Ka‘ū Burial Council Representative, Scott Mahoney, is supportive of the project and has attended many site visits.

2/18/2021 ATA Presented to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka‘ū (virtual)
   • 16 Attendees: Berkeley Yoshida (President), Paulette Ke (Vice President), Aina Akamu (Secretary), Moana Deleon (Treasurer), Jeanette Howard (Director), Nadine Ebert (Director), Halani Berard (Director), Darlyne Vierra, Kainoa Sharpe, June Chow, Cathy Arnold, Leina‘ala Enos, Kaleo Paik, Keoni Fox, Jodie Rosam, Pele Harman

2/21/2021 ATA met with Megan Lamson, (Executive Director, Hawaii Wildlife Fund) by phone. She supports the project.

2/23/2021 ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Pele Harman, talked with Paulette Ke (Vice President, Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka‘ū) by phone to address her questions and concerns.

2/23/2021 ATA Volunteer and Supporter, Laakea Suganuma, talked with Kenneth Makuakane, Kahu of Kawaiaha‘o Church and song writer and leader of the Pandanus Club musical group. He supports the project.

2/24/2021 ATA Outreach at ‘O Ka‘ū Kākou Na‘alehu Farmers Market
   • Set up a booth and shared fact sheet, map, frequently asked questions
   • 30 community members signed in support. See Hui o Waikapuna testimony.

2/28/2021 ATA met with Roy Loando (Cattle Rancher, current Kiolaka’a pasture lessee) by phone. He is a supporter.

3/01/2021 ATA Meeting and Site Visit to Kiolaka’a and Ka’alu’alu Bay with Representative Jeanne Kapela (District 5) and her assistant, Claire Mason. Led by Jodie Rosam. Representative Kapela is a supporter.

3/02/2021 Ka‘ū Radio Station, live announcement. Project updates will be streamed online and posted on station website. Public Service Announcements played multiple times on the following dates March 17-20, 24, 31 and April 4, 6, 8, 10 and 15.

3/6/2021 Aha Moku requested an in-person meeting with ATA at Punalu‘u Bakery, Na‘alehu
   • 12 Attendees: Darlyne Vierra, Jeff Kekoa, Aloha Beck, Leimana DaMate (Executive Director), Tanya Ibarra, Malie Ibarra, Paulette Ke, Keamalu Waltjen, Herbert Waltjen, Nohea Kaawa (ATA Stewardship Committee), Keoni Fox (ATA Board Member), Leilani Rodrigues (ATA Stewardship Committee)
• It was a productive dialogue. Community members were able to ask questions and express concerns which ATA answered and addressed. Leimana DaMate suggested entering into a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement between ATA and some of these community members or perhaps another entity. She had first mentioned this memorandum in a phone conversation with ATA on February 17 and again on February 18. The memorandum was to be drafted by Aha Moku and sent to ATA for review before the meeting on March 06. However, ATA did not receive any draft memorandum from Aha Moku.

3/10/2021  ATA met with John Kalua’u, President of Native Hawaiian General Services and DHHL Kamaoa Pastoral Lessee, by phone. He supports the project.

3/11/2021  ATA met with Senator Mazie Hirono as part of the Annual Hike the Hill Conference in Washington DC, a joint effort by the American Hiking Society and the Partnership for the National Trails System (virtual). She is supportive.

3/12/2021  ATA met with Keohokalole ‘Ohana (virtual). Their ‘ohana supports the project.

3/16/2021  ATA emailed an update to attendees of February 16 Community Meeting. See attached email.
• Shared link to the Community Meeting video recordings
• Shared copies of Power Point Slides, Summary of themes from the meeting, and Frequently Asked Questions
• Updated the community about the need to withdraw the Manāka’a LLCP funding request due to the landowner’s timeline and the opportunity to protect Manāka’a through a privately funded conservation easement.

3/16/2021  Kaʻū Calendar coverage
• Kaʻū 3/16 news brief here

3/18/2021  Kaʻū Radio Station, live interview and talk story with ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Jodie Rosam.

3/18/2021  ATA Presented Updates to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Kaʻū (virtual)
• 16 Attendees: Berkeley Yoshida (President), Paulette Ke (Vice President), Aina Akamu (Secretary), Moana Deleon (Treasurer), Jeanette Howard (Director), Nadine Ebert (Director), Halani Berard (Director), Darlyne Vierra, Kainoa Sharpe, June Chow, Cathy Arnold, Keoni Fox, Jodie Rosam, Pele Harman, Kalani Redmayne, and Nalei Young.

3/31/2021  ATA met with Representative Ed Case as part of the Annual Hike the Hill Conference in Washington DC, a joint effort by the American Hiking Society and the Partnership for the National Trails System (virtual). He is supportive.

3/31/2021  Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 72
• The LLCP reconvened to review and reconsider their Commission recommendation of Kiolaka’a for grant funding and consider both community support for and against the project.
After 5 hours of testimony and thoughtful deliberation, the Commission voted (7 in favor 1 opposed) to reconfirm their recommendation and number 2 ranking for a Grant Award to the Ala Kahakai Trail Association to protect and acquire Kiolaka’a.

The Commission included a condition that the Association make all reasonable efforts to include Ka‘ū based non-profit organizations and associations, including but not limited to the following organizations, in development of a community-based management plan for the lands at Kiolaka’a: The Ka‘ū Advisory Council, The Ka‘ū Hawaiian Civic Club, The Ka‘ū Multicultural Society, The Ka‘ū Kuleana, and the Pele Defense Fund.

4/05/2021 ATA Sent Email Invitation for Community Meeting. See attached email.

4/05/2021 Advertised Community Meeting in Ka‘ū Calendar.

4/06/2021 ATA met with Christine Blackburn, Senior Advisor for Climate and Energy at Office of Senator Brian Schatz as part of the Annual Hike the Hill Conference in Washington DC, a joint effort by the American Hiking Society and the Partnership for the National Trails System (virtual). Senator Schatz is supportive.

4/15/2021 ATA Presented Updates to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka‘ū (virtual)

4/17/2021 ATA Sent Email Invitation for Postponed Community Meeting. See attached email.

4/18/2021 ATA Stewardship Committee Members, Jodie Rosam and Megan Lamsom hosted a site visit with community members.

4/19/2021 ATA and the Ka‘ū Stewardship Hui hosted Second Ka‘ū Community Meeting

- Facilitated by Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED). HACBED helped with the Ka‘ū Community Development Plan in 2017.
- Over 80 registered but only 40 attended due to a district wide power outage during the previously scheduled meeting on April 12.
- A video recording of the meeting will be added soon to the ATA website
- All who attended the meeting were overwhelmingly supportive of the conservation project and the community outreach conducted by ATA. Participants noted that those who expressed opposition were not in attendance to share their concerns and engage in a dialogue. Stewardship committee members provided mo‘olelo and background about the cultural and natural resources including public access which would be protected through this preservation purchase. ATA addressed some of the misinformation which was being shared on social media. A summary of the community outreach efforts was discussed including proposed commitments to address community concerns.

4/19/2021 Ka‘ū Calendar coverage of Community Meeting

- Ka‘ū 4/19 news brief here
4/21/2021 ATA Outreach at ‘O Kaʻū Kākou Naʻalehu Farmers Market
- Set up a booth and shared fact sheet, map, frequently asked questions
- 8 community members signed in support. See Hui o Waikapuna testimony.
Aloha mai,

I am writing in support of agenda item C2B Kiolakaʻa because it is imperative that we retain and nurture Hawaiʻi’s archeological moʻolelo as it is from there that Kānaka Maoli derive their connection to ʻāina and, through ʻāina, connection to one another.

Kaʻū is one of the rare kīpuka remaining in Hawaiʻi by which we may peer into what life in Hawaiʻi should be and was up until relatively recently. It’s history and mana must be preserved and I believe that the purchase by Ala Kahakai Trail (partnered with the Trust for Public Lands) Association would be a good step in that direction.

Mahalo

Kaipulaumakaniolono

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KAIPU BAKER
ALOHALYN BECK
P.O. Box 824
Na'alehu, Hi. 96772

April 16, 2021

STATE OF HAWA'I
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809

To BLNR Members;

OPPOSITION LETTER: Against the Ala Kahakai Trail Association Acquisition of Approximately 1,841.3 acres at Ka'u, Hawai'i (Kiolaka'a Ahupua'a) TMK-(3)9-4-001:008, :009,:016,:017, AND :023. FOR $1,475,000.

Aloha Board Members,

My name is ALOHA BECK, lifetime resident of Ka'u, Hawai'i. I feel that the AKTA has short or no staff and being only 7 commissioners from different districts and are on and off of our island Hawai'i and no one truly or honestly representing our district of Ka'u. And using and abusing the communities people, their mana'o, man power, family stories, quoting books and say Ka'u Community is only volunteers to their so called Stewardship Hui or committee. WOW! See thats using the Ka'u People NO RESPECT WOW HEWA!! ATA STOP!! USING OUR 'OHANA for your benefit, grant money, gains, control. ATA they NO, not one(1) live OR a resident in Ka'u.

All the grants and approval they gotten here in Ka'u such as; Kaunamano?, County-13 acres Makahiki Fields?, Waikapuna?, Manaka'a Point?, and now Kiolaka'a!!?? 3000.00 plus acres with No Management Plan from 2016 until Now?? WHAT AKTA BEING DOING?? DO, AUDIT BOOKS!! TO THE B.L.N.R. MEMBERS;

THEY SHOULD BE DENIED AND NOT GET THIS GRANT UNTIL THEY CAN SOLIDLY SHOW, MONITOR WHAT THEY BEEN DOING. BECAUSE ONLY NOW 2021 THEY REACHING OUT TO THE PEOPLE, TWO (2) meeting Feb16, 2021 and April 14, 2021 that is NOT all the Ka'u Communities? As for other organization Ka'u Multicultural Society every Thursday since January 22, 2021 we invite Zoom, Social meetings and in person talk story.
BEFORE THIS COVER UP, NO SAY NOTHING, AKTA NEVER GET THE KA'U COMMUNITIES INVOLVED UNTIL NOW!! We still have a whole communities yet to share too! AND WE STILL APPROACHING, TALKING TO PEOPLE WHAT THEY THINK, HOW THEY FEEL, THEIR MANA'O NOT OURS, THEIRS THE PEOPLE...

AKTA WRONG, THAT IS TRUELY HEWA HEWA! And now they need the communities, YES DO HAVE SUPPORTERS but get residents, oldtimers, the Na Kupuna like myself and my 'ohana do and are OPPONENTS TO THIS ACQUISITION FROM AKTA, hard to TRUST AKTA CANNOT.

Plan and Simple! MAHALO. KUE, KA'U LOA... We will not let them Bully, Lie, Push us out of our generational, traditional way of life that was pass down to us, (Na Kupuna me ka 'Ohana) in our house, this is our house, Ka'u!

ALOHA, MAHALO

[Signature]
April 16, 2021

Jeannette Bento
PO Box 792
Hilo, Hawaii. 96721

Board of Land and Natural Resources-Hawaii

RE: acquisition of KIOLAKAA

Aloha and thank you for considering my testimony,

My name is Jeannette Kama Bento. I am in Strong Opposition regarding the KIOLAKAA acquisition by Alakahakai Trails Association (Trust for Public lands and/or Keoni Fox)

I have recently retired of almost 35 years of professional social work. I have worked with orphaned Hawaiian children and their families. I know that healing for our Hawaiian people will begin as they become the stewards of their own sovereignty. Certainly, the idea to secure lands to protect from outside development is admirable. I am hoping that this can be done by those that grew up and continue to live in Kau.

Securing large acreage in indigenous communities is a slippery slope that if not careful, may lead to utilizing lands as not in alignment with conservations intent. Fundamentally, I object to the securing of lands in the disguise of conservation, and then utilizing these lands that is not in alignment with conservation practices, as in allowing cattle on these lands, or having a sewage plant that can potentially drain in pristine waters.

History informs us that throughout the world, lands are secured for conservation, and then later these lands are sold for development, disenfranchising communities resulting in marginalized peoples; contributing to gentrification and the subsequent magnitude of problems for the marginalized. As a social worker, I have seen the result of these attempts at colonization of our people. As such, I am requesting that you consider the broader implications to our people in what you decide. This attempt to secure coastal land may very well be the beginnings that parallels to what happens to marginalized indigenous peoples throughout the world. I am asking that you think very carefully before deciding on these beginnings.

Instead, I certainly believe in the agency of people, their families, and their community. I certainly do not want to err on the wrong side of history. Please consider the broader perspectives of these decisions, and the consequence of these decisions to our people. My question to you, have you considered what this will do to our people, and truly, in your naau, and knowing the potential ill effects to the moopuna to come, truly, will you feel pono in your decision? Please consider this compass as you consider decisions for our people.
I myself did not grow up in Kau, and I do not live in Kau.

However, I have rooted ancestral ties that compels me to object to this acquisition that Ala Kahakai trails is requesting.

From my genealogy research and documentation from Pukui, Kamakau, Mckenzie and Beckly, I can surmise the following,

Jeannette Bento:
Keawe -l-Kekahi alii-o-ka-moku (k) ia Lono-ma’a-i-kanaka (w) hanau-
Kalani-nui-a-mamoo (Tutu Kawena Pukui)
Kalani-nui-a mamao and Kapa’ihi-a -ahu hanau
Kaolanialii-(Pukui and Kamakau)
Koalani AKA name for Kahikoloa-(Kekoolani)
Kahikoloa is AKA Kauhiokekka.- (Kekoolani)
Kauhiokekka is documented as Kalaninuiamamau’s daughter, as well. Mckenzie
Kahikoloa also documented in Beckley genealogy as granddaughter of King Keawe.
(Kahikoloa was married to King Kamehameha’s uncle Kameeiamoku. Beckleys are from
Kameeiamoku line.

Kahikoloa and Kapi Iwi hanau Keawemahi

Keawemahi and Pai hanau David Leleo Kinimaka.

David Leleo Kinimaka and Hanakeola hanau Alice Leleo

Alice Leleo and Samuel Mahuka Spencer hanau Jeanette Spencer

Jeannette Spencer and Cicero Bento hanau Samuel Bento

Samuel Bento and Sumiko Matsumura hanau Jeannette Kama Bento, myself.

Kalaninuiamamau was the eldest son of King Keawe, and Kalaninuiamamau was the first
King of Kau. Kalaninuiamamau was also Kalaniopu’s father, King of Kau.

However, family and Hawaii Nupepa documents that Imakakaloa was the father of
Kahikoloa, of who I descend from as illustrated previously. Imakakaloa, was also a high chief in
Kau of which there is an Imakakaloa heiau in Kau.
Furthermore, Samuel Mahuka Spencer, my great grandfather, was hanai'd by his mother's brother Samuel Mahuka Kumuhonua. Mahuka's royal patent #7124 places him in Hilea, specifically Makanau. Samuel Mahuka Spencer's mother is Anne Puakalehua Auwae Kumuhonua, and her mama was a Poohina. I find Poohina at Puu Enuhe.

In addition to Mahuka and Poohina, and despite differing mookuauhau as to the parentage of Kahikoloa, either way, the ancients of my family have their genesis in Kau.

Again, though I do not reside, nor do I come from Kau, I do have significant ancestral ties to Kau. I feel compelled to profoundly object to the Alakahakai trails from securing this aina. Moreso, to protect the self determination of Kau, I align with the Kupuna, and I strongly feel that the people born and raised in that area need to be the impetus of sovereign decisions. I vehemently oppose the acquisition of this land from Alakahakai trails.

Furthermore, on a youtube video dated January 22, 2021 for a DLNR meeting, on around time stamped 9:09, Suzanne Case chairperson said while referencing the legacy land trust, "We have gotten criticism in addition to an audit, and in the legislature—both for ‘rubber stamping’ for not following their very carefully thought through process.”. If this implication of a compromised process is correct, I am wondering why any land dealings are even being considered from these organizations? Given this implication, I am wondering if it would be prudent for your department to conduct your own assessment, and until that is completed, I am requesting restraint from further approvals of Alakahakai trails from ANY request to secure lands until deeper evaluations are completed.

I further understand that allegedly contact was made to sway individuals from Kau to alter testimony. I am questioning that legality? Will there also be an investigation, and then, depending upon the outcome of that inquiry, will it be possible to consider sanctions as in restricting application for further land requests.

I am also concerned about access and compromised gathering or Kalipi rights. I learned that people who wanted to go holoholo in Waikapuna, now have to sign waiver forms that they have to agree not to go fishing. I learned that gates are locked. I further understand that people are waitlisted to access that area, as well. As in many local families, because of our challenged economy on this island, as Hawaii Island has the most economically challenged communities in the State of Hawaii, people depend upon subsistence fishing, hunting etc. to provide for their families.

To reiterate, I strongly oppose to the acquisition of Kiolakaa by the Alakahakai Trails. I am very concerned about the trajectory of permitting purchase of this land and its impact on our people. Especially, I am concerned that foremost, the protocol to respect and regard Kupuna and community, and then facilitating help to realize their destiny was injured, and now to restore that trust may be very difficult. I further request that no other land acquisition be allowed until inquiry is completed, I am also requesting further investigation of those alleged attempts to influence testimony before and after testimony was provided. Even if this challenge
to alter testimony is not considered illegal, to me, perhaps it certainly compromises ethics, and for that and the above compromised integrity, I am hoping that this will influence the standing of requests being made, and that there will be a refrain from approving any land dealings. I am lastly concerned about compromised gathering rights because of compromised access.

Again, I vehemently oppose the acquisition of Kiolokaa by the Alakahakai Trails.

Mahalo for this consideration.

Aloha,

Jeannette Kama Bento, LSW
Social Worker
Hello,

my name is Alice Birnbaum and I am writing to you in support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association protecting Ka‘ū’s 80 miles of coastline. Development on this sacred land would go against all that Ka‘ū and our community stand for. Kiolaka is the last of its kind throughout the Hawaiian island chain. This piece of land holds great cultural significance to the Hawaiian people and our community and it would be devastating if anything were to happen to it. We must preserve and protect this beautiful coastline at all costs.

Alice Birnbaum
Aloha Chair Case and Members of the Board,

“Ina he nui kau ‘ukana e lawe mai ana, aha ho’i no’oe me ka ‘ukana.” If you come down with a big bundle (from the mountains), you are going home with a big bundle (from the sea). Herbert Kuʻumi Kin In, 1960

These words from my Uncle Kuʻumi are displayed on the walls of Hawaiian Hall at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. They speak of the intimate relationships between families who fished and gathered at shoreline villages and those who farmed the fertile foothills of Kaʻū, often traveling along a system of ancient trails.

Born in 1903 at Ka‘alaiki, Kaʻū, he was a year older than my great-grandfather, Alfred Kalama Kahakua. Both brothers deeply loved their ancestral homeland of Kaʻu and embraced the values of our kupuna. They were interviewed extensively by Tutu Kawena Pukui in the 1960s as she worked diligently to record our Hawaiian history, culture and language. In those recordings, they spoke fondly of the lands below Naʻalehu including Waikapuna, Kaunāmano, Kāwala, Kamilo, Kaʻaluʻalu and Ka Lae. Their words often expressed sadness about the loss of our heritage, our language, our flora, fauna and the Kaʻū way of life.

These messages from Uncle Kuʻumi are words of guidance for our generation and the next. Our community is in a position where we have a rare opportunity to honor the legacy of our kupuna by protecting these lands and cultural practices that have been passed down to us and saving them for the generations to follow.
The Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) strongly supports the staff recommendation to approve the Legacy Land Conservation Commission recommendations for grant awards in agenda item C(2)(B). A registered non-profit established in 2008, ATA’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present, and future. Congress added the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail to the National Trails System in 2000 for the preservation, protection, and interpretation of traditional Native Hawaiian culture and natural resources. Today, the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail is a 175-mile corridor and trail network of cultural and historical significance. It traverses through hundreds of ancient Hawaiian settlement sites and over 200 ahupua'a extending from 'Upolu Point on the north tip of Hawai‘i Island down the west coast of the island around Ka Lae (South Point) to the east boundary of Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. We are a Native Hawaiian Organization and our board is comprised of mostly descendants with ancestral ties to geographic sections of the trail. Our goal is to connect our communities with the trail through preservation and community-based management. I serve as a volunteer board member representing the Ka‘ū District.

For many years, the Ka‘ū community has advocated for the protection of the entire 80 miles of coastline. Our goal is to work together with community stakeholders towards collaborative landscape protection of the Ka‘ū coastline. The trail provides this connectivity.

My family has a deep ancestral connection to these lands. With the closure of Ka‘ū Agribusiness at the turn of the century, many of these coastal lands below the highway were sold to real estate developers and land speculators. Soon after, applications were submitted to the County Planning Department for large luxury style subdivisions. For the past twenty years, we have been desperately seeking ways to protect the cultural and natural resources of these lands for community stewardship and management. These lands are critical for the health of our Ka‘ū families, many who access this area for subsistence fishing and gathering.

In July 2009, SHPD granted an exception to the developer of the Kiolaka’a property for a full archaeological inventory survey of the property prior to subdivision due to “economic hardship.” Only a survey of the planned roadway corridor was required. In April 2010, the developer received a variance from County roadway and water requirements as part of its 22-lot subdivision. According to the approval letter, the variance would allow for the subdivision to be created without providing a water supply system to meet the minimum requirements of the Department of Water Supply and constructing minimum dedicable and non-dedicable roadway improvements meeting with the requirements of the Department of Public Works. If we are unable to raise the funds to preserve this property, it will be subdivided and developed. In addition to the extensive trail network and multiple lava tube cave systems used for habitation, water collection and defense, the property includes a freshwater spring, anchialine ponds, top tier coastal plant habitat and a significant dryland forest remnant with rare trees. We intend to work with the community to manage these natural resources by partnering with
local environmental organizations who are already providing resource protection in the area such as The Nature Conservancy and Hawaii Wildlife Fund.

ATA has committed in our public funding applications to developing a Community Management Plan for Kiolaka’a within 18 months of gaining ownership, if the conservation acquisition is successful. ATA sincerely welcomes everyone’s participation in the Community Management planning process which will likely be facilitated by a planning consultant hired by the County. For the Waikapuna management plan, the County is currently in the process of finalizing a contract with its planning consultant.

In regards to public access requests, ATA has respected all requests for vehicular access to the beach at Waikapuna. We are unable to track pedestrian access via the coastal trails at this time. However, since acquiring the property a little over a year ago, we have received and accommodated approximately fifty requests for vehicular access in 2020 and another twenty requests so far in 2021. Kiolaka’a is a much different landscape with only 950 feet bordering the east side of Ka’alualu Bay. Access to the shoreline will not be restricted. The current jeep roads are a continuation from Ka’alualu Road, a public roadway crossing over Kamehameha Schools and State owned property.

For the past three months, ATA conducted extensive community engagement and outreach. ATA reached out consistently to individuals who had opposed the project by phone and email, inviting them to talk story or go huaka’i to the coast. Some refused to meet and calls and voicemails were not answered. The only time they agreed to meet was on March 6th at the Aha Moku meeting and at that meeting, only a few who had opposed were present. Only three individuals who had opposed the project were willing to talk individually during this process. Please see detailed summary of community outreach. A detailed list of individuals contacted and the associated dates of outreach is also available.

Protection of the Ka’ū coastline has been a long-standing goal of the community and Kiolaka’a is an integral part of that collaborative landscape. We value our relationship with all Ka’ū stewards and stakeholders as collaborative community partnerships are vital to achieving landscape level protection. We will all need to work together and put the needs of the land first in order to be successful.

For my family, the threat of development is very real. These conservation purchases are a last resort to save these lands from subdivision and development which would disturb iwi kūpuna, compromise hundreds of cultural sites, and result in private gated communities where public access is restricted.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Keoni Fox
Board Member, Ala Kahakai Trail Association
fox@alakahakaitrail.org
Aloha kakou,

As a resident of Kaʻū, I strongly support preserving the natural beauty of our coastline. The land at Kiolaka`a has many ancient and sacred historical sites and in my opinion is as sacred as Mauna Kea. This was the birthplace of the island according to histories I have read. It is also considered an endangered dryland ecosystems. Preserving this stretch of Hawaii’s natural coastline makes good sense for future generations when one considers how little unspoiled undeveloped coast remains in the State.

Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition.
Thank you.

Signed sincerely,
Suzanne Brady, Naalehu, HI
I support the purchase of the Kiolaka'a parcel by the AlaKahakai Trail Association as they have shown responsible stewardship of lands in north Kohala - Kaiholena-, south Kona-Kiilae- and Ka'u. To allow the development and subdivision of Ka'u lands by foreign corporations destroys the rural ambiance of Ka'u forever.

Alan L Brown

Sent from my Hale o Nahenahe
Aloha,
This e-mail is in support of C2B Kiolaka’a. It is in the best interest of the community to preserve open space from development in the rapidly changing Ka’u. ATA has shown a complete dedication and responsibility for preservation and community service.

Mahalo,
Sujami Brown.

Sent from my iPhone
Aloha,

I support The Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s (ATA) efforts to purchase lands in Kiolakaa ahupuaa in the district of Kau, to keep them undeveloped to preserve their rural character. This is my personal testimony and my experience with this area comes from my experience working in the nearby lands of Kamaoa, Puueo for The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), Land Management Division.

In recent vegetation surveys of nearly adjacent DHHL lands, I experienced the largest population of wiliwili, *Erythrina sandwicensis* that I know of that remains on Hawaii Island. Although there is a lot of Christmas berry and haole koa in the area, wiliwili still makes up a significant portion of the canopy in this remnant lowland dry forest. Also present is a surprising large population of hao, *Rauvolfia sandwicensis* a native tree that does not have a federal status but is nearly absent elsewhere on Hawaii Island. In the limited scope of recent surveys, an individual of Federally listed Endangered Aiea, *Nothocestrum breviflorum* was found along with signs that suggest a larger population previously existed in this region. Historical accounts of the general Kaalualu area also suggest that other endangered plant species were known from this area including nanu, *Gardenia brighamii*, Kaulila, *Colubrina oppositifolia* and other rare and endangered plant species.

The forest type likely extends through the property that ATA is working to acquire in Kiolakaa. To my knowledge this region has not been systematically surveyed for rare plant species and warrants further surveys. Possible development of lands in Kiolakaa would reduce the already limited remaining lowland dry forest habitat in Hawaii. In my opinion it is very likely that vegetation surveys of Kiolakaa ahupuaa would discover endangered plant species as well as important and limited native lowland dry forest plant communities. Thought the coastal acreage of the proposed land acquisition is limited, it is located near Kamilo, which has extensive intact coastal plant communities, which also include endangered plant species.

I fully support ATA’s efforts to acquire lands in Kiolakaa to prevent development of high value and limited native lowland dry forest habitat, and to preserve the rural character of the coastal areas of Kau. Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha aina,

Joseph Kualii Lindsey Cacmara
I am in FAVOR of granting the funds to Kiolaka’a Trail association to acquire the 1.800 acre conservation easement in the southern portion of this island. We must conserve all the open land we can to assure there will be a habitable earth for all of us and for the flora and fauna we depend on for our existence, New developments should be made where lands have already been compromised, not in high value relatively unspoiled areas. Please consider approving the funds necessary to conserve this valuable region and make a commitment to the future of all species and the health of the planet.
I wish to state my opposition to the development of the Ka’u coastline, especially anywhere around Ka’alu’alu bay. The cultural and historical importance of this area cannot be overstated and the last thing the area needs is an upscale housing development. Instead of only thinking of short term gains, try and take a longer range view and think of the importance of cultural, environmental, and historical aspects. Once these are lost they cannot be regained!

Sincerely, Gregory Carlin

Sent from my iPhone
Aloha,

As a resident of Puna, I strongly support preserving the natural beauty of our island coastline. The land at Kiolaka’a has many ancient and sacred historical sites as well as endangered dryland ecosystems. Preserving this stretch of Hawaii’s natural coastline makes good sense for future generations when one considers how little unspoiled undeveloped coastline remains in the State.

I am a teacher and just yesterday my third and fourth grade students spoke of how sad they are that so many of our native birds are endangered. If my students were voting on this matter I can assure you that they would vote in favor of preservation. Please consider the future through their eyes.

I respectfully ask you to vote in favor of funding this land acquisition. Thank you for considering my viewpoint.

Sincerely,

Star Carlin
Mountain View, Hawaii Island
I wish to see the Ka'u coast preserved from development. This is a natural area of beauty along Hawaii's coastline and should remain so and development will destroy this.
[EXTERNAL] Dear friends, Aloha please buy the land at Kiolaka’a to protect it. My name is Tahua and I want to save this land for kids to have fun with their families. Endangered Hawksbill turtles nest there too. Sincerely, Tahua, 9 years old
Aloha,

I am writing to support acquisition of the lands of Kiolakaʻa, Kaʻū by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association. One of Hawaii's most valuable assets is its natural beauty, and I am so grateful that this island has so much wild land (even though much of it has been disturbed historically). However, much of our publicly accessible land is higher elevation, and valuable coastal areas are typically privately held. Access to the ocean and coastal areas is vital to the mental, social, and physical health of our community. We have a rare opportunity here where landowners are willing to sell land for preservation instead of development, and I believe we must take advantage of it.

If these lands are preserved for public use, my `ohana will definitely use them for recreation and participate in management/restoration activities. We occasionally visit the Ka'u area already for recreation, and have participated in a few beach cleanups over the years. Additionally, I run monthly hands-on experiential learning activities for students at UH Hilo, and if opportunities arise for volunteering we would be very excited to participate.

I hope that you will strongly consider supporting funding for this land acquisition, which will greatly benefit our community.

Mahalo,
Matt Connelly
TESTIMONY TO THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
APRIL 23, 2021 MEETING – AGENDA ITEM C2B

Agenda C2B - Approval of grant award to Ala Kahakai Trail Association for $1,475,000 for the acquisition of approximately 1,841.3 acres at Ka’u, Hawai’i, Kiolaka’a Tax Map Key numbers (3) 9-4-01:008:009, :016, 017 and :023.

Dear Chairperson Case and Board Members,

My family and I have lived in Greensands Subdivision since 1980 and have watched the traffic on Ka’alu’alu Road grow exponentially so that now there are about 5 cars per three minutes.

Beyond the general environmental impacts of Kiolaka’a residential development, our sole shared-route out of the area in an emergency – a single lane road with badly eroded sides making pulling over extremely dangerous because we have had vehicles break axles to avoid head-on collisions – will routinely have to bear many more vehicles, including heavy construction equipment, building supplies and water delivery (because there is no County Water line to residences or farms). We need to stop any further development!

Ala Kahakai Trail Association has pulled together diverse elements of the Ka’u community to establish lands in public ownership in the past and is a proven steward for this additional important piece in the Ka’u coastal preservation. Kiolaka’a is a vast piece of land that will provide a valuable resource for the people of Ka’u and all of Hawai’i into the future.

Given the importance of this once in a lifetime opportunity to preserve the natural resources of remote Ka’u, I join my community in urging approval of this award.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony,

Sandra Demoruelle
P.O. Box 588, Naalehu HI 96772-0588
Ph. 808/929-9244
Aloha kakou,

I want to express my strong support to assure preserving the natural beauty of our coastline here in Ka'ū. In addition to the endangered natural ecosystem, the land at Kiolaka’a holds many ancient and sacred historical sites. This rare stretch of Hawaii’s natural coastline must be preserved forever. Once developed, recovering its natural state will be forever impossible. Preserve Ka'ū coast in perpetuity!

Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition. Thank you.

Robert Domingos
Aloha kakou,

As a resident of Ka‘ū, I strongly support preserving the natural beauty of our coastline. The land at Kiolaka‘a has many ancient and sacred historical sites as well as endangered dry-land ecosystems. Preserving this stretch of Hawaii’s natural coastline makes good sense for future generations when one considers how little unspoiled undeveloped coast the remains in the State.

Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rowena P. Duncan
530-228-1883

E ota ke kai, e ota kakou - As the ocean thrives, so do we!!!

****This electronic mail message, including attachments, is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any unauthorized use, review, disclosure, distribution, or actions taken in reliance on the contents of this information, is prohibited. If you received this e-mail in error and are not the intended recipient, please notify me immediately by telephone or reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.****
With this email message I am providing written testimony that I support the protection and preservation of Kiolaka’a at Ka’alu’alu Bay, Ka‘ū. I urge the BLNR to decide in favor of and to approve the Grant Award from the Land Conservation Fund as recommended by the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, for the purchase of Kiolaka’a by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association. I live in Ka‘ū. The Ka‘ū coastline is a most precious natural coastal resource. Have you been there? Have you visited and taken a deep breath of the fresh ocean air? Have you walked the coastline and seen the birds and fish and native trees? We must preserve and protect this land. This has been a long-standing goal of the Ka‘ū community. This proposed preservation purchase would protect this exquisite and irreplaceable stretch of coastline from the threatening development interests of a large scale subdivision. The subdivision would impact open space and public access, ancient cultural sites, and sensitive native flora and fauna habitat. Please decide in favor of the Award to the Ala Kahakai Trail Association. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

-Terry Eckland
Ka‘ū Resident
Aloha ʻĀkou!

I have lived in the Kaʻū District for nearly 30 years now and have spent countless hours along the Kaʻū shoreline surfing, diving, spearfishing, hiking, and as often as possible, volunteering to help remove the never-ending influx of plastic waste and derelict fishing gear that continually washes up along this amazing coastline. I have also been blessed to learn the art of windsurfing along the beautifully unique shoreline at Kaʻaluʻalu Bay.

Protecting this shoreline, along with the lands directly mau ʻa, is critical for the local community, which depends upon shoreline access and subsistence resources. Protection will also benefit the larger Big Island community and indeed our residents throughout the state. The wealth of natural and cultural resources within this region makes it imperative that we not allow development but rather protect it in perpetuity under the direct kuleana of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, which will then develop local community-based management through their Kaʻū Stewardship Committee.

Please do not fail to take advantage of this opportunity to mālama Kiolakaʻa so that Kiolakaʻa can continue to mālama us here in Kaʻū -- as well as support and inspire all those who visit.

Mahalo for your careful attention,

Heraldo Farrington

Heraldo Farrington
Huaka'i Consulting
PO Box 952
Volcano, HI 96785
Cell: 808.756.6978

"Helping good people do great work, safely."
Aloha,
I am writing this testimony in support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association moving forward with their efforts to purchase and preserve the Kiolaka’a coastline in the communities best interest possible. My husband was born and raised in Ka’u and his love and care for all of Ka’u has caught my heart as well. We named our first born, Kaulana, after the very special Kaulana Bay, where he learned to swim, fish and surf. This place is very much a part of the man he is today. I personally, as well as so many others, will be absolutely devastated if this culturally and ecologically sacred place is lost to developers who do not understand or appreciate its importance to this earth, the Hawaiian culture and humanity in general. I believe that Ala Kahakai Trail Association has the best plan and intentions possible for this area and there is no time to waste. Our future generations, as well as respect for the Kūpuna, deserve the protection and preservation of this very sacred and special space. Thank you for your time and energy on this project.
Mahalo Nui Loa,
Jaimie Ferner
Kona
808-443-9525
jvferner@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone
Aloha:

I think we all know by now the importance of preserving Hawaiian lands, cultural artifacts, the coastline, and rare flora. I think we also all know by now the Ka'u community's impressive ability to stave off big businesses from gobbling up the land. But if this land gets sold off to everyday individuals looking to build houses and the such, there is no remedy for that except for the Ala Kahakai Trail Association to buy it first. Thankfully, Keoni Fox and company are more than capable of preserving and maintaining the land with true aloha aina and help from the community.

On a personal note, we know from numerous conversations we've had with Keoni that he feels it's his kuleana to help protect Ka'u from overdevelopment. Some people fear that he's not really from here and so suspect his motives. But the fact is, he has deep familial roots in Ka'u, puts his job on hold, his family life on hold, and tirelessly island hops between here and Oahu for the sake of the land. He does this despite the constant barrage of mud slung at him by people who don't know him and don't realize what he has given and is giving for all of us.

We love this place and we want to keep this place we love as intact as possible. This is a rare opportunity to preserve a large area of coastal lands that cannot be wasted. The Ala Kahakai Trail Association is the only organization to have stepped up. They want to work with the community for solutions to caretaking, access, and education that benefits all of us and protects the land. It's time to work together.

We respectfully ask the Board to grant them the money to purchase the land. It will be money well-spent and sadly, much needed.

Mahalo,

Jeremy Vaeni
Carol Fong
HI I ALLAN FRANCO IS IN SUPPORT OF AGENDA ITEM C2B Kiolaka’a
Aloha, my name is Barney Frazier and I have lived in the Ka'u district for 19 years. My family own and operate a small farm here. I have raised two sons here and we have spent very memorable times exploring our beautiful coastline. I support any and all efforts to prevent development of Ka'alu'alu Bay as a upscale resort or housing. Please understand that the Southern coastline of the Big Island exposed to the wonders of Mother Nature and any development could and would be a desaster.

Mahalo
Barney Frazier
April 21, 2021

Board of Land and Natural Resources

Re: Letter in Support of Funding for the Purchase and Protection of Kiolaka’a

Aloha Board-members:

Kuahiwi Ranch would like to express strong support for the purchase and protection of Kiolaka’a in Ka’ū, Hawai’i Island by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association. Preserving cultural resources and agricultural land is an important use of Legacy Land funds so that future generations can enjoy the beauty and heritage of our beloved island. Kuahiwi Ranch, based in Na’alehu, Ka’u, raises grass-fed, free-range beef cattle for local markets. Cattle ranching has been a part of Ka’u’s economy for over a hundred years and has helped to preserve the open landscape of Ka’u while still providing food and revenue for Ka’u.

I would like to address the issue of access to the Waikapuna property that has come up repeatedly in connection with this proposal, and specifically the allegation that Ala Kahakai Trail Association has, since their purchase of Waikapuna installed locked gates and restricted access. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The gates on the existing vehicular access routes are through privately owned ranch-lands that have been gated and locked for decades. Kuahiwi Ranch recently acquired these ranch-lands and will continue to maintain locked gates for reasons of security and liability. We are happy to work with Ala Kahakai Trail Association to facilitate their managed vehicular access program to Waikapuna across our ranch-lands. Furthermore, it should be noted that access to Waikapuna has increased, not decreased, since the acquisition, with many more campers and day-trippers making use of the site than before the acquisition. This is as it should be, however it is important that the site not be degraded by this increased use.

I hope that you will see fit to approve the Kioloka’a funding. Protecting these lands would fulfill the Ka’ū community’s long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate our rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture.

Mahalo,
Michelle Galimba
VP, Kuahiwi Ranch/Kuahiwi Contractors, Inc.
michelle@kuahiwiranch.com
(808) 430-4927
Aloha,

I am writing in support of protecting Kiolaka'a and acquisition by the Ala Kahakai Trial Association. I grew up in Kona, my family still resides there, and today my career is dedicated to the study and protection of nearshore reef ecosystems. My family and I go to this region to fish, but also feel a sense of righteousness in leaving this land largely untouched, recognizing the value in leaving natural places natural. As a marine scientist, I hope you will recognize how precious our untouched lands are in filtering water and delivering nutrients to our nearshore ecosystems. The reefs in Kaʻu are some of the most pristine on the island because Kaʻu has less development, sewage pollution, and fertilizer inputs than other regions, like Kona. People preferentially fish in Kaʻu because of this clean and pristine water. This is a precious resource that should be protected.

This region is some of the last remaining wild places on the big island, and is especially important to fishermen and locals to holoholo, to camp, to fish, and to practice this way of life that has always been a characteristic of the Kona and Kaʻu people. Especially for native Hawaiians, this place is an important last refuge for fishing and ocean related practices, and for using the historic trail system to travel along the coast. Future generations deserve to experience this place as it is now, and as it has been for generations.

I have worked with the Ala Kahakai Trail association in other regions, and they do a great job in working with surrounding land owners as well as investigating important history, and providing access to historic trails, the landmarks around them, and the history and knowledge of place. As managed by the Ala Kahakai Trail association, other places have been well managed and made accessible to tourists and locals alike, while keeping the spirit of place intact.

As we face great challenges with growing populations, sea level rise, and climate change, it is important that we look to the past in order to prepare for the future. Biocultural restoration is key to providing a sustainable future for Hawaiʻi, and the Ala Kahakai Trail Association does a well rounded job of examining kupuna knowledge and historical documents, preserving and restoring historical sites and knowledge, making this kind of knowledge and places accessible to the public, where appropriate, and incorporating indigenous knowledge with the management tools and knowledge of today for the most pono management possible.

Please support their purchase with this grant, for today's keiki and many generations to come.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration,
Veronica Gibson

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Uē ka lani, ola ka honua; when the heavens cry, the earth lives,
Veronica Gibson
Research Assistant: ‘Ike Wai Project and The Economic Research Organization (UHERO)
PhD Candidate, Limu Lab, Botany Department
University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa
Aloha,

I’m writing in strong support for the protection of Kiolaka’a for conservation, agriculture, and cultural preservation. That’s why I strongly support the vision of Ala Kahakai Trail Association which is: to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i past, present and future. ATA’s vision is community-based management of the trail and its surrounding natural and cultural landscape.

I’ve worked with this group in the past and have huge respect for the work they do. And though I’m not a Ka‘u dweller, I’m familiar with other groups and individuals who are and who have spent hundreds, if not thousands of hours working for decades to protect this land and its nearshore resources from environmental and cultural degradation. The far too few times I’ve visited the area (and all over 20 years ago), I found it to be amazing, wild and wonderful in indescribable ways— unique in the world. and that’s not counting the cultural resources which are ancient and living at the same time.

I hope that this crucial layer of protection and management will be given to Kiolaka’a.

Mahalo and sincerely,

Janice Palma-Glennie

P.O. Box 4849
Kailua-Kona, Hawai‘i 96745
April 21, 2021

To: The Board of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha Chairperson Case and Honorable Members of the Land Board,

I strongly oppose Ala Kahakai Trails Association acquiring any more land in Kaʻū.

I was born, raised, and currently reside in Pahala. Together with my husband and our 'ohana, we have inherited the Kuleana of these lands in Kaʻū through lineal descendants and generations of stewardship. We have 14 grandchildren. It is the future of all the children here in Kaʻū that will be affected by your decision today.

What the board needs to hear today is truth. Prior to bringing the Ala Kahakai Trails Association to Kaʻū, Mr. Fox has had several conflicts with community members as well as family members of his family. Since then, he has managed to infuriate many people here in our communities. From Ocean View to Pahala he has displayed blatant disrespect and arrogance towards our people.

The Academy Award-winning dramatic presentations that our Kupuna have had to endure by Mr. Fox and his local supporters are shameful at the least. What they have portrayed to members of the commissions is far from their realistic history that the Kupuna and members of the communities know all too well. The person that you see at the board meetings is not the same person that has trespassed on private properties, telling people what they can and cannot do on their land, where they live. He incites conflict and verbal altercations with countless members who have lived here all of their lives. Previous testimonies from community members have stated that. He has exploited and exposed sacred sites in his quest to get more notoriety and funding. Our Kūpuna knows of these sites and it was never exposed until Mr. Fox came to Kaʻū. He has brought unsolicited attention to sacred areas that have been at rest for decades if not centuries. He has no concept of the consequences of his actions. It is the Kupuna that bears the burden of his insolent behavior. It is our descendants that will have to repair the damages done by Mr. Fox and his supporters.

Mr. Fox created an organization that receives funding to steward land purchased by the County and PONC. He is the one that shows up to the PONC meetings asking for money and applies for renewal of stewardship. With years of stewardship at Kahua Olohu he has done nothing to maintain it but mowing a small section of that area. What happened to all the money he received over the years? That needs to be investigated. Taxpayers have the right to know. In recent years he has managed to change genealogical records to tie himself to other families and the lands here in Kaʻū. That should be investigated by a certified genealogist of the courts.

Mr. Fox brought Ala Kahakai to Kaʻū in his quest to gain more lands and funding. In 2016 the plans began. He never consulted with our Kupuna or the community members but for a few select people. BLNR allowed him to acquire the lands at Waikapuna. He has leased it to one ranch which belongs to Michelle Galimba. Two thousand acres with 3 locked gates. This is a violation of Native Tenant Rights, Pash Act, Ka Paʻakai gathering rights. Highway Act of 1892, and the American Religious Freedom Act. Since there is still no management plan for Waikapuna, Mr. Fox created his own on a registration/application. Only three vehicles allowed at a time. Eight people. You can ask for more with special permission. Only one family can camp at a time. There is a waiting list. Two thousand acres? How many cattle are free
to roam? There are restrictions on gathering from the shoreline. These abusive acts towards Native Hawaiians and their families will be litigated in a court of law if these violations continue to persist. He does not have the legal authority to place these restrictions on our people. Recently, a helicopter landed at Waikapuna. That needs to be investigated. Was it tourists? What happened to the extra money Mr. Fox retained from the purchase of Waikapuna? Everyone heard his testimony to the BLNR commission. He also stated that he wanted to use it to purchase Kaunamano. That land is pending. The people of Ka’u want answers.

He recently posted that he cares about Ka’u and the Kupuna on his website. Propaganda at best just like the imminent threat of development. Ka’u has faced the threat of development for years. Where was Mr. Fox then? Where was AKTA? That is the latest tale told by Mr. Fox seeing as how he has treated our Kupuna and people so far. He says he wants to work with the people. He wants to learn from the Kupuna, while he steals their kuleana. His wants and the desires of AKTA to control our shorelines will never come before the welfare, respect, and dignity of our Kupuna, ‘ohana, and future generations. As you can clearly see he still does not have the majority support from the grassroots and indigenous people of Ka’u. Because of his past and current behavior, lies, disrespect, he will never gain the trust of our Kupuna and their descendants. Look very closely at his supporters. The majority of them are not from here or have only lived here for a few years. Many of them work for government agencies or land trusts. They don’t have children here. They never lived, depended on, or perpetuated the traditional lifestyle. Their families have never fought development here in Ka’u for generations. They have not contributed to the generational perpetuation of the Ka’u lifestyle. They have not invested blood, sweat, and tears into this ‘āina. The few locals that do support him are going against the voices of our Kupuna here in Ka’u. That speaks volumes of the lack of respect they have for traditional cultural practices and protocol. They claim cultural expertise from the experiences of their ancestors and books, not from their own personal merits of physically living in Ka’u. Our Kupuna know their truths. Still, they have the audacity to say that they know better than our Kupuna and the people of Ka’u. So what will AKTA and its supporters be preserving or perpetuating and for who? I have heard during testimonies of how connected and knowledgeable one becomes to Ka’u like knowing the names of the clouds. This knowledge has been handed down for many generations. Because some feel the need to display their level of intelligence you can now google it. What these individuals fail to realize is that the real knowledge comes from walking with the Kupuna. Only then will you learn the kaona (deeper meaning) of not only the name but it’s purpose and the stories handed down first-hand to support that purpose. These are the things you cannot get from books or Wikipedia. These are the traditional cultural teachings handed down by Kupuna to those who have proved to be worthy of guarding its sacredness.

Mr. Fox and AKTA have come to Ka’u seeking opportunities to enrich themselves financially. They do this shamelessly in the name of conservation, preservation while abusing their power at Waikapuna. They contribute to the demise of our people and the ability to sustain our lifestyle. The question is, how can one person continue to get away with all of this, and does not even live on this island? Tell me how? Conspiracy? Our Kupuna and the people of Ka’u have had to tolerate Mr. Fox and his misdeeds for far too long. They have had to endure meeting after meeting that only allows them three minutes to defend a lifetime of dedication to Ka’u and our people. This is human degradation. The commission will decide today what role in history they will play. The people of Ka’u are known to be strong and bend like the a‘ali‘i. Like the a‘ali‘i, the people of Ka’u can only bend so far until they reach a breaking point. That is the real history of the people of Ka’u.

Please decide wisely,
Mahalo
Sophia Hanoa

Sophia Hanoa
hanoa.sophia@aol.com
ʻApelila 21, 2021
State of Hawai‘i
Board of Land and Natural Resources
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Re: SUPPORT for Agenda Item C2(B): ALA KAHAKAI TRAIL ASSOCIATION, $1,475,000, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 1,841.3 ACRES AT KA‘Ū, HAWAI‘I (KIOLAKA‘A), TAX MAP KEY NUMBERS: (3) 9-4-01:008:009, :016, :017, AND :023

Aloha e nā kūpuna, nā mākuʻa, Poʻo Case, a me nā lālā hanohano o ke Papa Alakaʻi o ka BLNR, ʻO Nāliʻipōʻaimoku Kaleilehuapuakeaa Pele Kekoʻiʻulaakawailani lokepine Harman koʻu inoa. I am a ninth-grader at Ke Kula ʻo Nāwahīokalaniʻōpuʻu in Puna, Hawai‘i. My first name Nāliʻipōʻaimoku was given to me in honor of my great, great, great, great grandmother, a native of Kaʻū. It is a name that commemorates a trip around Hawai‘i island by two of my kupuna, Kaʻū chiefs who were cousins. As a lineal descendant of my kupuna from Kaʻū, who lived, worked, raised their families and are buried there, I support the awarding of the grant to Ala Kahakai Trail Association for Kiolakaʻa, Kaʻū.

Growing up on Hawaiʻi island, I have been blessed to be able to holoholo to Kaʻū. As a baby, my mom tells me that I would fall asleep in the water at Punaluʻu while waves crashed all around me and no matter how cold the water was. My parents would take me to Honuʻapo where I would pass the time exploring tidepools with my siblings. We hiked down to Waikapuna where I helped to collect rubbish that found its way upon the shore there because of the strong Kaʻū ocean currents. I know that so many places in Hawaiʻi have been developed and that the experiences of my cousins and peers living elsewhere are so limited because they do not have access to nature like we do here. As a native Hawaiian with Kaʻū blood, I know it is my kuleana to take care of this place. He aliʻi ka ʻāina, he kauā ke kanaka. This land is my chief and I will always try to protect and serve it. How will my generation and those that come after me know how to truly take care of our ʻāina if places like Kiolakaʻa are not protected? How will I foster aloha ʻāina within my children if we no longer have these places to explore, gather, take care of and preserve? It is imperative that we save this piece of Kaʻū coastline so that we can continue to serve the ʻāina and keep Kaʻū Kaʻū for generations to come. Once developers come in and start bulldozing, we would have failed our kupuna. We cannot let this happen! We need to work together to mālama the land and the community. Mahalo for your time and for allowing me to share my
manaʻo.
Me ka ʻoiaʻiʻo,
Nāliʻipōʻaimoku Harman
22 April 2021

Re: 04/23/2021 Hawai‘i BLNR meeting agenda item # C. DOFAW 2B (land acquisition and state legacy conservation award funding of four parcels in Kiolaka’a, Ka‘ū - TMKs: (3) 9-4-001:008:009, (3) 9-4-001:008:016, (3) 9-4-001:008:017, and (3) 9-4-001:008:023).

Aloha Chair Case and Land Board members,

Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund supports the Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s efforts to purchase and protect Kiolaka’a lands in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i Island. Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present and future.

These Kiolaka’a parcels include roughly 1,841 acres of land located just south of Wai‘ōhinu town (and the Ka‘ū Forest Reserve – Kamilo coastal section) that provides a wealth of natural and cultural resources to the Ka‘ū community (both in days of old and currently), and home to countless species of wildlife in multiple native ecosystem types. It lies in the middle of a 17 mile stretch of coastline that extends from Ka Lae (South Point) to Pohina Pali (Honu’apo), an area that is rich with dozens of coastal strand and dry forest plant species, including several rare and endangered species. There are relatively few places that exist in Hawai‘i today that can boast such a diverse coastal plant community, as many of the other areas that were once abundant in native flora are now covered with concrete, condos, and private houses. Further, this area is within a roughly 80 mile stretch of coastline that runs from Miloli‘i (South Kona) into the backcountry of Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park (Puna) that has little to no coastal development. Due to its isolation and surrounding lava flows, this region has become a haven for native plants and animals alike, amidst a tapestry of archeological sites that reveal a long and storied history, with deep cultural significance.
In addition, this parcel is home to the Kapenako anchialine pool complex (and spring) that provided fresh drinking water to past residents, and continues to provide a home for two native pool shrimp, including the endemic ‘ōpae ‘ula. Anchialine pools are unique brackish water ecosystems that are relatively rare worldwide but common on Hawai‘i Island. These coastal pools (or ponds) are close to the ocean but connected through underground lava tubes, tunnels, cracks and crevices, and they fluctuate with the tide. Statewide these ecosystems provide habitat for native microbial communities, eight pool shrimp, plus a rare crab and eel species (at least four of which are endangered), and provide a consistent food and water source for endangered bats, breeding damselflies, resident waterbirds and visiting seabirds.

Looking seaward, a wealth of marine resources are known to frequent the nearshore waters of Ka‘alu‘alu Bay. This area continues to provide an important fishing ground for Ka‘ū community members who practice lawai‘a pono and are intimately familiar with their resources. The ocean has long been considered an ice box for generations of residents here, and is a source of subsistence and spiritual connection for many. It frustrates local residents when people come from elsewhere to take resources from this area that they are not familiar with.

Hawai‘i is home to over 680 fish species and about 25% of which are only found here. Ka‘alu‘alu is abundant with schools of surgeonfishes, and the inside bay is full of the keiki and ‘ōpio fishes (uhu, hinalea, mamo) that have yet to grow up and reproduce themselves. In the recent past this bay was also a thriving loko i’a or fishpond, and you can still see evidence of trails leading between the Kapenako spring and the pool and rock walls from that period of time. Today, both within the bay and beyond, tiger sharks and white-tips are not uncommon, and also carry great importance to the Hawaiian culture and ecologically. Twenty-five different species of dolphins and whales are known to frequent these waters, and this place is often visited by naia (Hawaiian spinner dolphins) and seasonally by Humpback whales. Its tidepools provide a wealth of resources that were (and are still) collected by local shoreline users including limu, pipipi and other shelled critters, pa‘akai (salt), plus small amounts of floating debris from coconuts to driftwood logs, plastic crates to microplastics, that have travelled along the Hala‘ea current from the neighboring lands of Puna, or from afar from across the Pacific. This area is also influenced by the Kawili current that travels southward down West Hawai‘i and will sometimes rounds the point toward Kiolaka‘a. The oceans connect us and many currents converge in this region that we now must come together to protect.

On behalf of our small (but mighty) team at Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund, we are in full support of the proposed land acquisition by Ala Kahakai Trails Association (with support from Trust for Public Lands) and the protection of Kiolaka‘a in perpetuity, and will be there to offer kōkua for future stewardship efforts in this area as we have been supporting the adjacent property at Waiʻōhinu for the past 20 years.

Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund (HWF) is a small nonprofit organization that has been working to conserve native species in Hawai‘i since 1996. During that time, we have been involved in research, education, restoration and advocacy projects related to marine debris, Hawaiian sea turtles, community-based management, environmental education, anchialine pool restoration, and more. We have also recovered over 350 tons (700,000 lbs.) of marine debris from the coastlines of Hawai‘i Island, Maui, Midway, and
Lalo (French Frigate Shoals) with the help of thousands of community volunteers, the majority of which (285 tons) was recovered from the Kaʻū coastline. We hope that this purchase by the Ala Kahakai Trails Association (ATA) will both help protect native plant and animal species, and the archeological history (and continued cultural use) of the area now and into the future. We look forward to working more with the ATA to expand the capacity of our small conservation organization (and other NGOs like The Nature Conservancy, Ka ‘Ohana O Honu’apo, Ho’omalu Kaʻū, and more), with support and collaboration with nearby land owners including Hawaiʻi Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaiʻi Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Kamehameha Schools, and financial support from the County of Hawaiʻi’s Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Fund to conserve these lands at Kiolaka’a.

Funding this acquisition would help ensure the Kaʻū community’s long-standing goal of protecting the beloved 80 miles of coastline to continue the rural lifestyle, culture, and support native habitats and wildlife. Access to the coastline is important for this community which relies on subsistence fishing, farming, and gathering. Conserving this landscape will perpetuate cultural access for descendants and recreational access for travelers along the ancient trail allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Kaʻū’s ancestors.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions about this letter of support for Kiolaka’a.

Sincerely,

Megan R. Lamson, M.S.
Board President & Hawai‘i Program Director
meg.hwf@gmail.com

William “Bill” Gilmartin
Vice President & Director of Research
bill.hwf@gmail.com
Dear friend's,

Please buy the land at Kiolaka'a to protect it. My name is Melvin and I want to save this land for kids to have fun with their families. Endangered Hawksbill turtles nest there too.

Sincerely,

Melvin, 9 years old
To the DLNR: Re: Concern for DLNR participating in acquisition of defective deeds.

I oppose any funding for Ala Kahakai Trails Association for acquisition of any land in Ka`u: Manaka`a Fishing Village and Kiolaka`a. The deeds need to be examined by an experienced title examiner, producing an accurate title abstract, as negligence can be claimed if title not clearly cited.

The Hawaiian Kingdom, heirs, kuleanas, Crown and government own title to most lands, not EMW, or C.Brewer, etc. They want to control or own Kau' lands, which belong to Ka`u, a part of Ko Hawaii Pae Aina.

Please diligently examine the deeds because negligence is a crime and those involved can be liable. Let the people of Kau malama the aina—steward our own lands.

Please kokua, Shawn Honu

The fake State of Hawai`i has no jurisdiction over Hawaiian lands/ Islands!
Ku Kia`i Hawai`i !!!
Hui o Waikapuna

Shalan Crysdale  Keoni Fox      Michelle Galimba
Pelehonuamea Harman  Nohealani Ka‘awa  Ka‘ōhi Mokuhalii
Megan Lamson  Leilani Rodrigues  Jodie Rosam

April 21, 2021

State of Hawai‘i
Board of Land and Natural Resources
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Re: SUPPORT for Agenda Item C2(B): ALA KAHAKAI TRAIL ASSOCIATION, $1,475,000, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 1,841.3 ACRES AT KA'Ū, HAWAI'I (KIOLAKAA), TAX MAP KEY NUMBERS: (3) 9-4-01:008:009, :016, :017, AND :023

Aloha Chair Case and Members of the Board,

We, the volunteer members of Ala Kahakai Trail Association's (ATA) Kaʻū Stewardship Committee - Hui o Waikapuna, are committed to the responsible stewardship, management, and protection of Waikapuna through collaboration with our Kaʻū community. We SUPPORT the acquisition of Kiolakaʻa by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) to ensure that this ʻāina is protected for future generations.

The cultural and conservation values of Kiolakaʻa are countless, and the wealth of ʻike within this ʻāina is unfathomable. With protected land from Honu‘apo to Ka Lae and beyond, it would be a tragedy to lose Kiolakaʻa to development and fragment the continuous open space of this portion of Kaʻū’s coastline and lowlands.

The Kiolakaʻa ahupuaʻa is in the middle of a 17 mile stretch of coastline from Ka Lae to Pohina Pali (at Honu‘apo Bay) that is rich with rare and endangered species, an anchialine pool complex, and numerous cultural sites. There are relatively few places that exist in Hawai‘i today that can boast such a diverse coastal and lowland plant community, as many of the other areas that were once abundant in native flora are now covered with concrete, condos, and private houses. Due to its isolation and surrounding lava flows, this region which includes the embayment and historic fishpond at Ka‘alu‘alu, has become a haven for native plants and animals alike, amidst a tapestry of archeological sites that reveal a long storied history and deep cultural significance.
Na mamo pihaʻa i kai o Kaʻaluʻalu. (The driftwood descendants at the sea of Kaʻaluʻalu.) -- 'Ōlelo No'eau from Mary Kawena Pukui

We have worked to help our community understand the process of land protection and management when lands are purchased through the State’s Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP) and the County’s Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Conservation (PONC) funds. ATA has worked very hard to secure County funding for our community to develop a Community Management Plan for Waikapuna. An unbiased third party consultant will be hired to create a comprehensive (and costly) management plan based on our community’s mana’o. In this sense, it will absolutely not be the Ala Kahakai Trail Association leading the management of Kiolaka’a, but the management will be in the hands of our community. Hui o Waikapuna recognizes that community-based management is essential when it comes to ‘āina that has such a multitude of resources on which our community depends. It takes expertise and a deep sense of place-based knowledge, and invaluable qualities are found within our Kaʻū community and community organizations. Ala Kahakai Trail Association respects and recognizes that, and our Hui o Waikapuna has witnessed it first-hand.

Since the initial Board meeting on January 22nd, 2021, the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (in close partnership with our Hui) has done extensive community outreach. They have hosted well-attended community outreach meetings via zoom to share updates, get feedback, and address concerns. They have reached out and offered to have socially distanced in-person meetings. They have met with kūpuna and others who are opposed. They have apologized and asked for forgiveness for any offense they may have caused. They have listened to our community and learned from these experiences. When community members began to spread rumors and misinformation about ATA, ATA worked with us to draft a frequently asked questions document and distribute it to our community so people could be empowered with factual information. When concerns were raised about kūpuna access to Waikapuna, they made sure to recruit a liaison, within the Kaʻū community, who can help make arrangements and accommodate kūpuna requests. When concerns were raised about the need for inclusion of certain Kaʻū organizations or families in the process and management plan, they did so without hesitation. When concerns were raised about ATA’s board members not being “born and raised in Kaʻū,” they recruited a new board member, Nohealani Ka’awa, who is born and raised here. They are currently onboarding her, with
plans to add more Kaʻū board members in the future. When further concerns were raised regarding some community members' wishes that it be a Kaʻū-based nonprofit that own these lands, ATA agreed that once an able nonprofit organization was ready to fulfil the State and County requirements of the grant agreement and the conservation easement, ATA would work with them to request State and County approval to transfer the deed and title to that nonprofit. They have shown through their actions and openness that they are content with being a temporary placeholder, and have proven that it is not about ATA, it is not about any one person, it is about the ʻāina and our community’s vision to protect and mālama it. ATA has gone above and beyond to listen to those with different opinions, to support dialogue, find common ground, and chart a shared path forward. They have eagerly agreed to involve all willing community groups and community members in the creation of a management plan and partner on any ATA-based Kaʻū stewardship projects. They have essentially done everything that the Kaʻū community has asked of them without pause. We trust ATA and are confident that their future trajectory and commitment to returning Kiolakaʻa to community stewardship is sincere and community-centric.

Members of Hui o Waikapuna have been intimately involved in community outreach. As of 4/22/21 at 8:00am, we have received hand-written signatures in support of the acquisition of Kiolakaʻa by ATA by 228 individuals, 86% of whom reside in Kaʻū (see attachment included with this testimony). Those who signed only did so after they were provided information such as pertinent maps and information on ATA and the surrounding areas in a face-to-face interaction. Additionally, Hui o Waikapuna has gathered further support using an online statement of support/petition with ample background information. Also as of 4/22/21 at 7:30am, we have received 425 electronic signatures, 40% of whom reside in Kaʻū, and 86% of whom are willing or maybe willing to help with stewardship of Kiolakaʻa (see Exhibit A for Online Statement of Support, and attachment including names and moku of residence of those whom electronically signed). This is a total of 653 signatures in support of ATA acquiring and protecting Kiolakaʻa for community stewardship.

It saddens us to see some of the community opposition to this effort, and the misinformation being spread, especially when it is so clear that we all have the same goal: to protect our coastline from development and to return to our rightful role as stewards of this ʻāina. The opportunity for our Kaʻū community to determine the future of this ʻāina is
before us now. Our kūpuna set this path long before us. And it is our kuleana to continue their legacy for the generations coming after.

Hui o Waikapuna supports this acquisition, and will continue to support our Kaʻū community and the Ala Kahakai Trail Association. We encourage the Board to put the ʻāina first, approve the grant award, and help us share this precious gift with those who will follow in our footsteps.

He aliʻi ka ʻāina, he kauwā ke kanaka. (The land is Chief, man is its servant.) -- ʻŌlelo Noʻeau from Mary Kawena Pukui

Mahalo,

Hui o Waikapuna

Shalan Crysdale  Keoni Fox  Michelle Galimba
Pelehonuamea Harman  Nohealani Kaʻawa  Kaʻohi Mokuhalʻiʻi
Megan Lamson  Leilani Rodrigues  Jodie Rosam
Hui o Waikapuna

Shalan Crysdale  Keoni Fox  Michelle Galimba
Pelehonuamea Harman  Nohealani Ka‘awa  Ka‘ohi Mokuhalii‘i
Megan Lamson  Leilani Rodrigues  Jodie Rosam

Exhibit A:

Online Statement of Support/ Petition

(425 signatures)

SUPPORT the Protection of Kiolaka‘a, Ka‘ū

(Signatories were asked for their name, contact information, moku of residence, and interest in future stewardship opportunities in Kiolaka‘a.)

1,841 acres of Kiolaka‘a Ahupua‘a in Ka‘ū are under threat of imminent development. This ‘āina is beloved and holds a wealth of ‘ike and values sacred to Hawaiian culture and to all of the people of Ka‘ū.

Kiolaka‘a includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka‘alu‘alu Bay, and portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system. Other cultural sites include heiau, habitation sites, iwi kūpuna, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. A network of trails lead to Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pool ecosystem teeming with ‘ōpae ‘ula. A portion of the mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka‘ū’s paniolo traditions and providing jobs and food to our community. Access to the coastline is important to our community for subsistence fishing and gathering and cultural practices.

Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) has a Ka‘ū Stewardship Committee composed of Ka‘ū residents, descendants, and coastal caretakers to guide the stewardship and management of ‘āina in Ka‘ū. If our community is successful in protecting this ‘āina, ATA will develop a Community Management Plan in partnership with Ka‘ū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders.

Protecting these lands would fulfill our Ka‘ū community’s long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast. It’s because of our kūpuna who fought long and hard for this vision that we are here today, with this incredible opportunity.

Link to FAQ’s:
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57abac2d29687f7e343b9e6b/t/603dac57b4b7546cb87887a7/1614654553784/ATA+FAQs+2021.02.16%5B5643%5D.pdf
WE, the undersigned, support the protection and acquisition of Kiolakaʻa, Tax Map Key Nos: (3) 9-4-01:008:009, :016, :017, and :023, by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, to protect and preserve the ʻāina for future generations, and return these lands to our Kaʻū community through community-based management and stewardship.

He aliʻi ka ʻāina, he kauwā ke kanaka.
(The land is Chief, man is its servant.)
April 17, 2021

To whom it may concern,

As one of the Kau residents that previously testified in opposition to Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s acquisition of 1,841.3 acres at Kiolakaa and 348 acres at Manakaa on January 22, 2021, I am writing this letter to state that I remain in opposition to granting land acquisitions in Kau to this organization.

After the ruling of the BLNR meeting in January I took time to observe how AKTA and their partners would handle this situation. Unfortunately, reconciliation was not reached and trust is far from being established. From the way our concerns and questions were handled to the inherent contradictions and disrespect present in both AKTA and their partners’ statements I have no reason to support this acquisition. It was proposed by AKTA that they would work together with our community and build trust, but when none of their actions so far have been to empower our living kupuna or the disenfranchised from our community who utilize these lands to feed their families I find that hard to believe.

Being that AKTA’s interest in Kau lands has been in the works since 2016 there has been a significant amount of time and opportunity for this organization to at least develop positive relationships with local organizations (like Kau Multicultural Society), kupuna, and generational families that still utilize these areas. As revealed by many of our community members, this was not the case.

When encountered with questions of accountability and trust, AKTA and their partners have continually deferred to speak of their love for the lands of Kau, the native plants, the distant past, and their deceased ancestors. In these proclamations of affection, they have never once proven to have, or desire, positive relationships with the living descendants who remain in Kau, or the community that continues to protect and care for these lands today.

Between the two representatives of AKTA, one has previously trespassed and disrespected a luakini heiau we have in Kau, the other has a track record of tampering with iwi kupuna and artifacts, suggesting to leave burial caves in Moaula open, suggesting to dig up iwi in Kahilipali, starting a fire at Hoomalu Kau’s makahiki field, lying about Manakaa being a fishing village, falsifying the amount of support received for this project, and failing to be transparent with our kupuna. They also claimed there was no opposition to Waikapunas acquisition and that access has not changed, but I know kupuna who publicly opposed that project and I have seen the new restrictions on gathering as well as the newly introduced intrusive application process.

In addressing the partners of AKTA I think back to how they have interacted with other places in Kau. I think of their connection to Hawaii Wildlife Fund and how they brought academic groups down to Kawa around 2014 as part of a grant to pull grass from around the pond. The issue there was that the grass was all that held the sand in place so now that pond is full of
sand and barely 2 feet deep at high tide. With actions like that in mind, I am worried about how our resources will be treated and what kind of unwanted attention will be brought to these places.

In looking at the actions left behind in Kau by these affiliates I can definitively say that these people are neither capable of building beneficial relationships with the community nor responsible enough to care for the aina and its resources – one of which being the noho aina, or the people living on the land.

Although it has been expressed that others had positive experiences with these people, that is not the case for me. It has also been expressed that the intentions of AKTA and their partners are in good interest, but in the end intentions do not outweigh actions. It is up to people like our kupuna and the community to express how those actions are received.

A common theme brought forth by AKTA and their partners is that the issue of commercial development is a bigger issue than those raised by the community, but when dealing with people who have a track record of disrespecting kupuna, mismanaging aina, and refusing to address contradictions this “preservation” of Kau is as much a gamble as the development being highlighted by AKTA. It also inappropriately overlooks the pre-existing issues of access, accountability, and desecration on these lands that need to be addressed.

With the long history that conservation has of acquiring mass amounts of land then dictating how, when, and if Indigenous people interact with their resources, AKTA has proven to favor the same colonial agendas they claim to fight against. In this situation, ancestry, and even residency in Kau, does not absolve these people of perpetuating colonial agendas; so to support this project uncritically would be to contribute to both the historical violence against Indigenous peoples through conservation and the historical violence against Kau by outside organizations.

In this case I will say that actions speak louder than words, and regardless of AKTA and their affiliates’ proclaimed intentions I cannot believe what they say because I continually see what they do.

Sincerely,

Kaweni Ibarra
Ala Kahakai Trail Association  
Summary of Kaʻū Community Outreach  
Kiolakaʻa

Summary of Kaʻū Community Outreach

On January 22, 2021, the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) deferred a decision to approve grant awards for Fiscal Year 2021 Legacy Land Conservation Program funding for Kiolakaʻa. BLNR instructed the applicant, Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) to do further community engagement with the goal of creating more of a collaborative community driven preservation effort. Chair Case encouraged everyone who participated in the BLNR meeting “to talk to each other pretty seriously and try to sort this out in a way that gets as much agreement as possible.”

ATA is committed to addressing questions and concerns raised at the BLNR meeting in order to unite the community as much as possible and to satisfy the request of the Board. Since the BLNR meeting in January, ATA has conducted extensive community engagement and outreach which has included: reaching out to individuals who testified in opposition to the LLCP grant funding and inviting them to meet and talk story; scheduling phone, zoom and in-person meetings with community members; organizing and hosting two community meetings (February 16 and April 19), facilitated by an independent facilitator and advertised widely to the broader Kaʻū community which was attended by over 60 people and over 40 people respectively; presenting to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Kaʻū at its monthly meetings; sharing at the Hawai'i Island Burial Council; conducting a site visit with Representative Jeanne Kapela; meeting with members of the Aha Moku Council of Kaʻū including kupuna and individuals who were opposed; setting up a booth to engage with community members at the local ‘O Kaʻū Kākou Farmer’s Market in Na‘alehu; and meeting with Senator Mazie Hirono and an advisor for Senator Brian Schatz, both Senators introduced federal legislation to protect the Kaʻū coastline in 2013; and meeting with Congressman Ed Case who in March 2005, asked the National Park Service to conduct a reconnaissance survey of approximately eighty miles of coastline in South Kona and Kaʻū to evaluate this area’s resources for inclusion in the national park system.

Through these outreach and engagement efforts, the community sentiment has been one of overwhelming community support to protect the Kaʻū coastline (including iwi kūpuna, cultural sites, and sensitive ecosystems) from development, including broad support for ATA’s efforts to protect and acquire these parcels.

The community feels that public access should be managed to protect the land’s cultural and natural resources, but that managed access should not negatively impact cultural and subsistence activities along the coastline (gathering, fishing, etc.). The community feels that vehicular access should be managed to prevent overuse, damage, and degradation of natural and cultural resources due to the potential negative impacts of recreational access.

The community understands that while there may be varying opinions about issues such as the extent and details of managed public access, the need to secure public funding to protect the land now is of
utmost importance and outweighs management issues which can and will be resolved through a community management planning process, if the land is successfully protected. The community has also expressed that if ATA is successful in protecting these parcels, they want to be included as an integral part of ATA’s community management planning process and stewardship efforts.

While we worked hard to establish a dialogue, to listen, to take suggestions seriously, to find common ground, and to get as much consensus as possible, there are still individuals in the community who do not support the grant award for this preservation purchase, although they have expressed support for the protection of the coastline. ATA reached out consistently to these individuals by phone and email inviting them to talk story or go huaka’i to the coast. Some refused to meet and calls and voicemails were not answered. The only time they agreed to meet was on March 6th. Some have conveyed feelings of hurt and mistrust due to a history of marginalization. They wish that a Ka’ū nonprofit could be the fee owner of these lands. We understand their pain and skepticism. We acknowledge that the history of Ka’ū has been full of examples of foreign and corporate interests laying claim to land at the expense of community and their sense of self-determination. Our intention is truly to be a space holder so that the Ka’ū community can lead and steward and we propose to keep this option open so that a Ka’ū nonprofit might someday step into the kuleana of ownership. To address these community concerns, we have proposed several commitments for the Board’s consideration.

We respectfully request that BLNR approve FY 2021 LLCP funding for Kiolaka’a and include a condition in the Grant Agreement that states:

If the Kiolaka’a conservation acquisition is successful, Ala Kakahai Trail Association commits to:

1. An inclusive community management planning process for Kiolaka’a which will likely be facilitated and drafted by an independent planning consultant hired by the County of Hawai’i who will hold the Conservation Easement
2. Inviting Ka’ū descendants, residents, non-profits, community groups, ranchers, and anyone who has a relationship to Kiolaka’a to participate in the community management planning process
3. Inviting Ka’ū descendants, residents, and organizations to partner on stewardship projects for Kiolaka’a and/or participate on the Stewardship Committee
4. Adding additional board members that are Ka’ū residents
5. Hosting quarterly community meetings to keep the Ka’ū community updated about its land protection efforts
6. If in the future, a Ka’ū nonprofit has the capacity to carry the kuleana of owning these lands, meets State and County requirements, and the community supports this, the Association is open to working with that nonprofit to request BLNR and County approval to transfer the deed

Timeline of Ka’ū Community Outreach

1/22/2021  BLNR Meeting
1/25/2021  Draft Contact List of Testimony in Opposition (Names, Emails, Phone Numbers)
1/27 -1/28  ATA was contacted and exchanged messages with Vivian-Malia Moana Fa’agata who shared her thoughts through social media
1/27/2021  ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Nohea Kaawa, talked with Vivian-Malia Moana Faʻagata by phone to try to address her questions and concerns.

2/04/2021  DLNR LLCP determined that testifiers’ contact email addresses cannot be disclosed as it is considered personal information.

1/29/2021  ATA Sent Email Invitation to community members who testified in opposition (to either Kaunamano or Kiolaka’a) inviting them to meet by phone or zoom. See attached email.

1/29 – 2/10  ATA Called, left voicemail messages, and texted community members who testified in opposition, inviting them to meet or talk over the phone. Several people responded and ATA scheduled meetings with those individuals right away. All of these discussions were very positive. A few people shared they were not ready or willing to talk. The rest did not respond. ATA made every effort to engage in a dialogue with these community members. Detailed records of our outreach are available upon request.

2/2/2021  ATA & TPL Met with Sandra Demoruelle, of Green Sands Subdivision by phone. Sandra was opposed but is now a supporter of the project.

2/3/2021  ATA & TPL Met with Malialuika Pualeilehua Gentry by phone. She was opposed but is now willing to assist with stewardship and consultation for preservation.

2/5/2021  ATA Met with Ann Bosted (The Cave Conservancy of Hawaii) by phone. She is a supporter.

2/5/2021  ATA Kaʻū Stewardship Committee Meeting

2/7/2021  ATA Led a hike as part of a meeting with Margaret McGuire (former Secretary, Pele Defense Fund) and Alison Yahna, both of Green Sands Subdivision.

2/8/2021  ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Michelle Galimba, talked with Kaweni Ibarra in person to better understand his questions and concerns.

2/8/2021  ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Nohea Kaawa, talked with Joel Velez in person to try to address his questions and concerns.

2/8/2021  ATA Sent Email Invitation for Community Meeting. See attached email.

2/10-2/15  Advertised Community Meeting in Kaʻū Calendar.
  •  Announcement here
  •  News brief here

2/9/2021  ATA & TPL Met with Kala Mossman by phone. Kala was opposed but is now a supporter of the project.

2/10/2021  ATA met with Wendy Vance (President, Ho’omalu Kaʻū) in person. She supports the project.
2/10/2021  ATA Volunteer and Supporter, LaVanda Kainoa Salvador spoke with Debi Javar by phone to try to address her questions and concerns.

2/11/2021  ATA Shared at the Nā Ala Hele Trail Advisory Council Meeting (virtual)

2/12/2021  ATA Presented at the 10\textsuperscript{th} Annual Wiliwili Tree Festival hosted by the Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative (virtual)

2/14/2021  ATA met with Kawehi Ryder (Executive Director, Uhane Pohaku Na Moku of Hawaii) and Kumu Hula Debbie Ryder (Halau Hula O Leionalani) in person. They both support the project.

2/15/2021  ATA Volunteer and Supporter, Laakea Suganuma, met with Kawaikapuokalani Hewitt (Aha Moku Council Lehua) by phone to try to address his questions and concerns.

2/15/2021  Aha Moku requested a meeting with TPL by zoom
- Aha Moku would not allow ATA Board Members, Keoni Fox and Kaleo Paik to participate
- 8 Attendees: Leimana DaMate, Kawaikapu, Rocky, Darlyne Vierra, Jeff Kekoa, Kaweni Ibarra, Reyna Ramolete Hayashi (TPL), Lea Hong (TPL)
- TPL gave a short presentation and addressed questions and concerns. It was a productive meeting.

2/16/2021  ATA hosted First Kaʻū Community Meeting
- Facilitated by Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED). HACBED helped with the Kaʻū Community Development Plan in 2017.
- Over 60 attendees. See attached list.
- See updates to ATA website with: Video Recording, Powerpoint, Summary of Themes
- All who attended the meeting were overwhelmingly in favor of protecting the coast, and supportive of the conservation projects. Some participants were frustrated that those who expressed opposition didn’t attend the meeting to share their concerns and engage in a dialogue. While there was productive discussion about the extent and details of how to best manage public access, there was strong consensus that the need to secure public funding to protect the land now outweighs management issues which can and will be resolved through a community management planning process.

2/16-2/17 Kaʻū Calendar coverage of Community Meeting
- Kaʻū 2/16 news brief here
- Kaʻū 2/16 news brief here

2/17/2021  ATA Outreach at ‘O Kaʻū Kākou Naʻalehu Farmers Market
- Set up a booth and shared fact sheet, map, frequently asked questions
- 145 community members signed in support. See Hui o Waikapuna testimony.
- ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Jodie Rosam, talked with Olivia Ling in person to try to address her concerns and questions.

2/18/2021 ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Jodie Rosam, had a second meeting with Olivia Ling in person to further discuss her concerns.

2/18/2021 ATA Shared at Hawai‘i Island Burial Council Meeting (virtual)
- The Ka‘ū Burial Council Representative, Scott Mahoney, is supportive of the project and has attended many site visits.

2/18/2021 ATA Presented to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka‘ū (virtual)
- 16 Attendees: Berkeley Yoshida (President), Paulette Ke (Vice President), Aina Akamu (Secretary), Moana Deleon (Treasurer), Jeanette Howard (Director), Nadine Ebert (Director), Halani Berard (Director), Darlyne Vierra, Kainoa Sharpe, June Chow, Cathy Arnold, Leina’ala Enos, Kaleo Paik, Keoni Fox, Jodie Rosam, Pele Harman

2/21/2021 ATA met with Megan Lamson, (Executive Director, Hawaii Wildlife Fund) by phone. She supports the project.

2/23/2021 ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Pele Harman, talked with Paulette Ke (Vice President, Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka‘ū) by phone to address her questions and concerns.

2/23/2021 ATA Volunteer and Supporter, Laakea Suganuma, talked with Kenneth Makuakane, Kahu of Kawaiaha‘o Church and song writer and leader of the Pandanus Club musical group. He supports the project.

2/24/2021 ATA Outreach at ‘Ō Ka‘ū Kākou Na’alehu Farmers Market
- Set up a booth and shared fact sheet, map, frequently asked questions
- 30 community members signed in support. See Hui o Waikapuna testimony.

2/28/2021 ATA met with Roy Loando (Cattle Rancher, current Kiolaka’a pasture lessee) by phone. He is a supporter.

3/01/2021 ATA Meeting and Site Visit to Kiolaka’a and Ka‘alu‘alu Bay with Representative Jeanne Kapela (District 5) and her assistant, Claire Mason. Led by Jodie Rosam. Representative Kapela is a supporter.

3/02/2021 Ka‘ū Radio Station, live announcement. Project updates will be streamed online and posted on station website. Public Service Announcements played multiple times on the following dates March 17-20, 24, 31 and April 4, 6, 8, 10 and 15.

3/6/2021 Aha Moku requested an in-person meeting with ATA at Punalu‘u Bakery, Na‘alehu
- 12 Attendees: Darlyne Vierra, Jeff Kekoa, Aloha Beck, Leimana DaMate (Executive Director), Tanya Ibarra, Malie Ibarra, Paulette Ke, Keamalu Waltjen, Herbert Waltjen, Nohea Kaawa (ATA Stewardship Committee), Keoni Fox (ATA Board Member), Leilani Rodrigues (ATA Stewardship Committee)
It was a productive dialogue. Community members were able to ask questions and express concerns which ATA answered and addressed. Leimana DaMate suggested entering into a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement between ATA and some of these community members or perhaps another entity. She had first mentioned this memorandum in a phone conversation with ATA on February 17 and again on February 18. The memorandum was to be drafted by Aha Moku and sent to ATA for review before the meeting on March 06. However, ATA did not receive any draft memorandum from Aha Moku.

3/10/2021  ATA met with John Kalua’u, President of Native Hawaiian General Services and DHHL Kamaoa Pastoral Lessee, by phone. He supports the project.

3/11/2021  ATA met with Senator Mazie Hirono as part of the Annual Hike the Hill Conference in Washington DC, a joint effort by the American Hiking Society and the Partnership for the National Trails System (virtual). She is supportive.

3/12/2021  ATA met with Keohokalole ‘Ohana (virtual). Their ‘ohana supports the project.

3/16/2021  ATA emailed an update to attendees of February 16 Community Meeting. See attached email.

- Shared link to the Community Meeting video recordings
- Shared copies of Power Point Slides, Summary of themes from the meeting, and Frequently Asked Questions
- Updated the community about the need to withdraw the Manāka’a LLCP funding request due to the landowner’s timeline and the opportunity to protect Manāka’a through a privately funded conservation easement.

3/16/2021  Ka’ū Calendar coverage

- Ka’ū 3/16 news brief here

3/18/2021  Ka’ū Radio Station, live interview and talk story with ATA Stewardship Committee Member, Jodie Rosam.

3/18/2021  ATA Presented Updates to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka’ū (virtual)

- 16 Attendees: Berkeley Yoshida (President), Paulette Ke (Vice President), Aina Akamu (Secretary), Moana Deleon (Treasurer), Jeanette Howard (Director), Nadine Ebert (Director), Halani Berard (Director), Darlyne Vierra, Kainoa Sharpe, June Chow, Cathy Arnold, Keoni Fox, Jodie Rosam, Pele Harman, Kalani Redmayne, and Nalei Young.

3/31/2021  ATA met with Representative Ed Case as part of the Annual Hike the Hill Conference in Washington DC, a joint effort by the American Hiking Society and the Partnership for the National Trails System (virtual). He is supportive.

3/31/2021  Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 72

- The LLCP reconvened to review and reconsider their Commission recommendation of Kiolaka’a for grant funding and consider both community support for and against the project.
After 5 hours of testimony and thoughtful deliberation, the Commission voted (7 in favor 1 opposed) to reconfirm their recommendation and number 2 ranking for a Grant Award to the Ala Kahakai Trail Association to protect and acquire Kiolakā'a.

The Commission included a condition that the Association make all reasonable efforts to include Kaʻū based non-profit organizations and associations, including but not limited to the following organizations, in development of a community-based management plan for the lands at Kiolakā’a: The Kaʻū Advisory Council, The Kaʻū Hawaiian Civic Club, The Kaʻū Multicultural Society, The Kaʻū Kuleana, and the Pele Defense Fund.

4/05/2021 ATA Sent Email Invitation for Community Meeting. See attached email.

4/05/2021 Advertised Community Meeting in Kaʻū Calendar.

  * News brief here

4/06/2021 ATA met with Christine Blackburn, Senior Advisor for Climate and Energy at Office of Senator Brian Schatz as part of the Annual Hike the Hill Conference in Washington DC, a joint effort by the American Hiking Society and the Partnership for the National Trails System (virtual). Senator Schatz is supportive.

4/15/2021 ATA Presented Updates to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Kaʻū (virtual)

  * 7 Attendees: Berkeley Yoshida (President), Paulette Ke (Vice President), Aina Akamu (Secretary), Moana Deleon (Treasurer), Darlyne Vierra, Kaleo Paik, and Pele Harman.

4/17/2021 ATA Sent Email Invitation for Postponed Community Meeting. See attached email.

4/18/2021 ATA Stewardship Committee Members, Jodie Rosam and Megan Lamsom hosted a site visit with community members.

4/19/2021 ATA and the Kaʻū Stewardship Hui hosted Second Kaʻū Community Meeting

  * Facilitated by Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED). HACBED helped with the Kaʻū Community Development Plan in 2017.
  * Over 80 registered but only 40 attended due to a district wide power outage during the previously scheduled meeting on April 12.
  * A video recording of the meeting will be added soon to the ATA website
  * All who attended the meeting were overwhelmingly supportive of the conservation project and the community outreach conducted by ATA. Participants noted that those who expressed opposition were not in attendance to share their concerns and engage in a dialogue. Stewardship committee members provided moʻolelo and background about the cultural and natural resources including public access which would be protected through this preservation purchase. ATA addressed some of the misinformation which was being shared on social media. A summary of the community outreach efforts was discussed including proposed commitments to address community concerns.

4/19/2021 Kaʻū Calendar coverage of Community Meeting

  * Kaʻū 4/19 news brief here
4/21/2021 ATA Outreach at ʻO Kaʻū Kākou Naʻalehu Farmers Market

- Set up a booth and shared fact sheet, map, frequently asked questions
- 8 community members signed in support. See Hui o Waikapuna testimony.
Aloha kakou,

As a 20 year resident of Ka’ū, and specifically of the Kiolaka’a Ahupua’a, I strongly support preserving the natural beauty of our coastline. The land at Kiolaka’a has many ancient and sacred historical sites as well as endangered dryland ecosystems. Preserving this stretch of Hawaii’s natural coastline makes good sense for future generations when one considers how little unspoiled undeveloped coastline remains in our State. Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition. Mahalo Nui Loa.

Signed sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Jenkins,
Kiolaka’a Orchards Estates Secretary

Farmer, Author, Director of Wiraqocha Foundation
www.ailaniorchards.com
www.elizabethbjenkins.com
www.thefourthlevel.org
Aloha

I have been a resident of Ka'u since 1983. I know well the majesty of this area. Ka'u is a gem. So much across the Hawaii islands is no longer Hawaiian. We need to take steps to preserve and protect what we still have.

I cared for the small rural Ka'u Hospital for almost 20 years. Ka'u nurtures her people as did the 'A'ali'i Ku Makani Clinic. There is truly a legacy in Ka'u.

Please consider our strong support of the measure to allow Ala Kahakai Trail Association to be the steward to protect and preserve the Kiolaka'a coastline into perpetuity. I request your vote to award a Legacy Land Conservation Grant to fund this land acquisition. Mahalo

In health for the land

Margaret Johnston-Kitazawa MD
Earth Day 2021

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Aloha,
I am supporting the measure to allow Ala Kahakai Trail Association to be made the initial steward of the land in order to protect this special place from the development of residences in perpetuity. We need to Save the Kaʻū coast!! As a resident of Hawaii Island, I strongly support preserving the natural beauty of our Kaʻu coastline. The land at Kiolaka’a has many ancient and sacred historical sites as well as endangered dryland ecosystems. Preserving this stretch of Hawaii’s natural coastline makes good sense for future generations when one considers how little unspoiled undeveloped coast the remains in the State. Preserving this land is preserving all of our futures.

Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition. Thank you.

Signed sincerely,
Jennifer Jones
808.345.0155
jen4phoenix@gmail.com
Ka ‘Ohana O Honu‘apo
Post Office Box 903
Nāʻālehu, HI 96772
ka_ohana@honuapopark.org

21 April 2021

Re: 4/23/21 BLNR Meeting (re Kiolaka‘a)

Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our support for agenda item C2B about Kiolaka‘a, Kaʻū.

Ka ‘Ohana O Honu‘apo is a community-based, non-profit organization whose mission is to: “To restore, care for and protect the natural and cultural resources within the Honu‘apo area. Utilizing the values of mālama ‘āina (care for the land), kūpono (honesty and integrity), and kuleana (duty and responsibility), we will work in community partnerships to preserve this area for future generations.”

Ka ‘Ohana has been actively working with the county, state, and community partners since our foundation in 2005 to help manage and improve the 230 acres now known as Honu‘apo Park. In 2019, we applied for and secured a tier 1 permit to restore the estuary at Honu‘apo and we began hosting community workdays to rebuild the loko i‘a earlier this year. We understand that Ka‘alu‘alu Bay was also once a flourishing fishpond that provided sustenance for local residents. It is critical for places like this one to be protected from development and providing resources for our local community, as we have here at Honu‘apo over 15 years ago.

We, the undersigned Board members of Ka ‘Ohana, support the protection and acquisition of Kiolaka‘a, Tax Map Keys: (3) 9-4-01:008:009, (3) 9-4-01:008:016, (3) 9-4-01:008:017, and (3) 9-4-01:008:023, by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA), to protect and preserve the ‘āina for future generations, and return these lands to our Kaʻū community through community-based management and stewardship.

Protecting these lands would help fulfill the Kaʻū community’s long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast. It’s because of our kūpuna who fought long and hard for this vision that we are here today, with this incredible opportunity to secure another 1,840 acres along this special shoreline.
Ka ‘Ohana O Honu’apo supports the Trust for Public Lands and ATA efforts to protect and preserve the watershed, lands and forests that feed the Ka‘ū coastline and our coastal ecosystems. We sincerely appreciate your time, consideration and commitment to protecting Hawai‘i’s wahi pana for future generations, to perpetuating cultural practices, and to providing healthy ecosystems for native wildlife.

Our community is sustained by the natural resources that surround us, and we support this land acquisition at Kiolaka’a in order to preserve Ka‘ū’s natural and cultural resources for future generations and protect this region from development and land fragmentation.

Me ka mahalo (with gratitude) for your time and consideration,

From all the current Ka ‘Ohana O Honu’apo Board members:

- Kalāhoʻohie Mossman (President)
- Nohealani Kaʻawa (Vice President)
- Kenneth Sugai (Treasurer)
- Megan Lamson Leatherman (Secretary)
- Daniel Dierking (Director)
- Jodie Ray Rosam (Director)
Protecting these lands would fulfill the Ka‘u community’s long-standing goal of protecting the beloved 80 mile coast. It’s because of the kupuna who fought long and hard for this vision that we are here today, with this incredible opportunity.

We need to do what is right.

Laurie R. Kaimuloa
Aloha Kakou!

I am a Native-Hawaiian, born and raised in Kaʻū, to be exact in Naʻalehu town. I strongly OPPOSE of this development, that one wants to take upon our beloved Kiolakaʻa or any other place for that matter. No development should be done along our beautiful Coastline or on any sacred grounds. This will destroy all the natural home and environment of our medicinal plants that we use for sickness, aches & pains to our kino. I do not take prescriptions from Dr’s that are prescribed, who knows what are in them.

We live through these memories of day use, camping, gathering with Ohana. Having fun, fishing, throwing net, teaching our keiki how to use the tools to gather for Ohana. I have been taught by my late Father and Tutu Kāne along with my Siblings, when and how before you do it (memories are a lifetime, no matter how old you get, it lives on till your day comes). Even, if some or most of us moved out of Kaʻū due to lack of jobs, it does not mean we left Kaʻū for good! Our hearts will always remain close!

Education is the number one source for our keiki o ka aina today. Kaʻū is a rural area, not a City, we don’t need all those tall buildings, millions of dollar houses, whatever..!! Higher taxes, house markets, longtime residents like to keep it simple. If they like all those luxurious, they would move to the mainland. I can go on and on, but I will stop here. Keep Kaʻū, Kaʻū!!!

LeVanda Kainoa-Salvador
Aloha,

My name is Clyde Kaneshiro and I personally don’t want anything built or developed on Kamilo land (also called Kiolakaa). I moved here in 1973 to build the punalulu condos. During that time I met some locals and we went diving, fishing, and camping all along the coast. I still live here in upper Waiohinu, called Kiolakaa Kea Homestead. We still go down to the beach to camp and to gather limu, opihi, a’ama, and fish. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I Support The Preserving of Kiolaka’a, and Ka’alu’alu

Mahalo,

Clyde Kaneshiro
KAʻŪ COMMUNITY MEETING
PROTECTING KIOLAKAʻA & MANĀKAʻA

Hosted by: Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Tuesday February 16, 2021
4:30-6:30 pm
Online Zoom Meeting

Register to participate at this link:
https://tpl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0scOGoqTMqG9KW8AzGEsiplLvSD819y7G93

The Kaʻū community has been working for years to preserve its beloved 80 mile coast. Ala Kahakai Trail Association has partnered with The Trust for Public Land, descendants, and community organizations to protect Kiolakaʻa and Manākaʻa. Both of these coastal properties are at serious risk of subdivision and development.

Ala Kahakai Trail Association invites the Kaʻū community to participate in a dialogue about:
- Protecting Kiolakaʻa & Manākaʻa for conservation, agriculture, and cultural preservation,
- To hear suggestions about how ATA can partner and collaborate with the community,
- To listen to the community’s vision for community-based management and stewardship of these lands

Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s nonprofit mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawaiʻi past, present and future. ATA’s vision is community-based management of the trail and its surrounding natural and cultural landscape. We welcome your feedback and collaboration. We have deep respect and aloha for the Kaʻū community. Protecting these places for future generations cannot happen without your manaʻo, participation, and stewardship.

Because it’s not safe to meet in person due to COVID, we will meet online via zoom but hope to meet in person when it is safe to gather again.

For questions or more information please contact Keoni Fox fox@alakahakaitrail.org

www.alakahakaitrail.org
Aloha kakou

Mahalo for participating in last month’s community meeting to discuss the protection of Kiolaka’a and Manaka’a. We appreciate all of your mana’o and feedback. Through this enriching experience, we heard why the coastline is important to the Ka’u community and the overwhelming support to protect it, we identified areas in which Ala Kahakai Trail Association can improve to uphold its kuleana and we discussed solutions on how to build capacity and malama these lands in partnership with the community. Please find attached the following documents:

- Summary of themes from the meeting
- Presentation slides
- Frequently Asked Questions

The recorded videos of the community meeting and four speak-out sessions can be found on our website at the link below.

http://www.alakahakaitrail.org/kakoo-kau

Important Manaka’a Update:

Because other conservation projects were ranked above Manaka’a (ranked # 3) and the project is only eligible for a small partial Legacy Land Conservation Program award in fiscal year 2021, we were not able to raise sufficient acquisition funds and could not offer to buy the property from the landowner. The Trust For Public Land continued to negotiate with the landowner, but the owner rejected our offers and could not wait for us to raise and secure sufficient public funding for the conservation acquisition. In the interim, the landowner decided to lower their listing price, putting the property at increased and severe risk of being sold and developed.

However, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) worked to find another conservation solution that could meet the landowner’s asking price, timeline and urgent need to sell. TPL and ATA applied for and received a grant from a private philanthropic foundation to allow ATA to acquire a Conservation Easement over the property. This easement will keep the land in agriculture and protect its cultural and natural resources including the trail system. The landowner recently put the property under contract to sell to a private buyer. At closing, the buyer has agreed to convey and grant a conservation easement to ATA in order to protect the property’s agricultural,
Therefore, ATA notified the Legacy Land Conservation Program (Department of Land and Natural Resources) that we are withdrawing our grant application for acquisition funding for Manaka’a so that the funding can go to other worthy conservation projects.

**We Need Your Kokua!**

Although we have found an alternative conservation solution for Manaka’a, we are still in need of support and funding from the Legacy Land Conservation Program to protect Kiolaka’a. The Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) has not scheduled this yet, but we expect the BLNR to reconsider the grant award for Kiolaka’a at either the meeting on April 9 or April 23. We will send out another notice via email once this agenda item has been scheduled so you know when and how to submit written or oral testimony in support.

Mahalo for your aloha, participation and commitment to protect our Ka’u coastline.

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However, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) worked to find another conservation solution that could meet the landowner’s asking price, timeline and urgent need to sell. TPL and ATA applied for and received a grant from a private philanthropic foundation to allow ATA to acquire a Conservation Easement over the property. This easement will keep the land in agriculture and protect its cultural and natural resources including the trail system. The landowner recently put the property under contract to sell to a private buyer. At closing, the buyer has agreed to convey and grant a conservation easement to ATA in order to protect the property’s agricultural,
cultural, and natural resources in perpetuity.

Therefore, ATA notified the Legacy Land Conservation Program (Department of Land and Natural Resources) that we are withdrawing our grant application for acquisition funding for Manaka’a so that the funding can go to other worthy conservation projects.

**We Need Your Kokua!**

Although we have found an alternative conservation solution for Manaka’a, we are still in need of support and funding from the Legacy Land Conservation Program to protect Kiolaka’a. The Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) has not scheduled this yet, but we expect the BLNR to reconsider the grant award for Kiolaka’a at either the meeting on April 9 or April 23. We will send out another notice via email once this agenda item has been scheduled so you know when and how to submit written or oral testimony in support.

Mahalo for your aloha, participation and commitment to protect our Ka’u coastline.

Me ke aloha,
Keoni Fox
Ala Kahakai Trail Association
fox@alakahakaitrail.org
Aloha kakou

Mahalo for participating in last month’s community meeting to discuss the protection of Kiolaka’a and Manaka’a. We appreciate all of your mana’o and feedback. Through this enriching experience, we heard why the coastline is important to the Ka’u community and the overwhelming support to protect it, we identified areas in which Ala Kahakai Trail Association can improve to uphold its kuleana and we discussed solutions on how to build capacity and malama these lands in partnership with the community. Please find attached the following documents:

- Summary of themes from the meeting
- Presentation slides
- Frequently Asked Questions

The recorded videos of the community meeting and four speak-out sessions can be found on our website at the link below.
http://www.alakahakaitrail.org/kakoo-kau

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KAʻŪ COMMUNITY MEETING
PROTECTING KIOLAKAʻA

Hosted by: Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Monday April 12, 2021
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Online Zoom Meeting

Register to participate at this link:
https://tpl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsceygrzosGt2AxZb29h-A_arKI9Cc3tIT

The Kaʻū community has been working for years to preserve its beloved 80 mile coast and we are closer than ever to achieving this goal. Ala Kahakai Trail Association has partnered with The Trust for Public Land, lineal descendants, Kaʻū community members and community organizations to protect and purchase Kiolakaʻa, which is at serious risk of subdivision and development, and return these lands to community stewardship. ATA has a Stewardship Hui led by Kaʻū residents and descendants who are leading community-based management planning and implementation.

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• Protecting Kiolakaʻa for conservation, agriculture, and cultural preservation
• To share manaʻo we’ve heard from community and our commitments moving forward
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• To listen to the community’s vision for community-based stewardship of these lands

Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s nonprofit mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawaiʻi past, present and future. ATA’s vision is community-based management of the trail and its surrounding natural and cultural landscape.

We welcome your manaʻo and invite you to participate in community management planning, partner on stewardship projects, and join our Kaʻū led Stewardship Hui.

Because it’s not safe to meet in person due to COVID, we will meet online via zoom but hope to meet in person when it is safe to gather again.

For questions or more information please contact Keoni Fox fox@alakahakaitrail.org
www.alakahakaitrail.org
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KAʻŪ COMMUNITY MEETING
PROTECTING KIOLAKAʻA

Hosted by: Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Monday April 19, 2021
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Online Zoom Meeting

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Aloha kākou,

Due to the power outage in Kaʻū a few minutes before the meeting, Ala Kahakai Trail Association rescheduled the meeting for this Monday, April 19th, 6:00-8:00 pm to allow everyone to participate.

If you previously registered, you should have received a confirmation email from Raeanne.Cobb-Adams@tpl.org with the rescheduled zoom meeting link and call in info for: Monday, April 19th, 6:00-8:00 pm. You do not need to re-register.

Any new participants will need to register before the new meeting time at the link below. Mahalo for your understanding.

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KAʻŪ COMMUNITY MEETING
PROTECTING KIOLAKAʻA & MANĀKAʻA

Hosted by: Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Tuesday February 16, 2021
4:30-6:30 pm
Online Zoom Meeting

Register to participate at this link:
https://tpl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0scOGoqTMqG9KW8AzGEspLYSD819y7G93

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https://tpl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0scOGoqTMqG9KW8AzGEslpLvSD819y7G93

The Kaʻū community has been working for years to preserve its beloved 80 mile coast. Ala Kahakai Trail Association has partnered with The Trust for Public Land, descendants, and community organizations to protect Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a. Both of these coastal properties are at serious risk of subdivision and development.

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www.alakahakaitrail.org
KAʻŪ COMMUNITY MEETING
PROTECTING KIOLAKAʻA & MANĀKAʻA

Hosted by: Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Tuesday February 16, 2021
4:30-6:30 pm
Online Zoom Meeting

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April 16, 2021

Kāʻu Multicultural Society
P.O. BOX 22, NAALEHU HI 96772

B.L.N.R. Meeting
April 23, 2021
Hānololu, Hawai‘i

Dear Chairperson and Members of B.L.N.R,

On behalf of our organization, Kāʻu Multicultural Society, I am writing this OPPOSITION LETTER against the Ala Kahakai Trails Association Acquisition for Kiolekalae and Wānabata. I’m Darline Vienna, President of KMS, since 2008 involved our mission Protect, Preserve all of our Kāʻu History.

We met during Distance in person invited, ALTA on March 6, 2021 at Punalu‘u Bay Park Pavilion. Mainly, there were many questions asked to ALTA-Ko‘oni Fox and 2 members of his Stewardship Hui (Hānakea and Kealani)??

There were members of Kāʻu Communities, Representatives of AHA Mo‘oku, Kāʻu Multicultural Society and Hawaiian Civic Club of Kāʻu members present (13). Most of the question the people were asking he honestly could not answer directly, but kept saying, check our TRAIL RECORDS, how many land we saved! For his Kupuna and love for Kāʻu. SAD!!!

We live in a small cozy communities, where we pretty much KNOW and see talk story everybody who lives here.

Ala Kahakai Trails Association members like Ko‘oni Fox truly, DO NOT KNOW Kāʻu and the people. They not being transparent, honest, respectful, NOT BEING OPEN. THE PEOPLE HAS NO TRUST for ALTA, Keoni Fox at all. Some present March 6, meeting even told him and why?

We have continued since January 22, 2021, meeting up until now every week, KMS and Kāʻu Communities Citizen, hold meeting, let people in the communities and the State know our Issue and Concerns on Zoom, in Person, Small Gatherings of Families and or with friends. Keeping the people aware of what is happening.

KMS Board members; some decided to go out into the communities and approach everyone!!! IHOA! KMS BOARD of DIRECTORS
April 16, 2021

Ka'u Multicultural Society
P.O. BOX 22, NAALEHU HI 96772

Going around in our communities, talking and sharing, they are now being aware and sharing with us on how they feel and why they want to get involved. But many people don't have access to computer or Zoom. But wanted to be heard. And some don't want to write, etc. So many communities the people suggested if we can make a petition letter. In opposition, then they would truly sign their names in opposing to Ala Kahakai Trails Association because many people disagree with what they are not doing and not being honest and many know AKTA is not telling the TRUTH, they cannot trust, some say quote NO TRUST them!

With what the people in Ka'u, we have approached, we decided to write a petition letter. In opposition. Thanks due to our KMS-Board and member, we appreciate their honesty and chose to go in person and explain and share their time and volunteer, their Kokua.

To the Chairperson and members of Board of Land and Natural Resource, we humbly ask all to please accept our petition letter. In opposition with all the people who truly and legally signed their signatures. KMS truly thank all the Lāhui (People) for their voices in honesty to let us know how the Ka'u communities feel of their Ka'ūhāole.

ATTACHED TO:
1. Exhibit - (Petitions - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13,

2. Exhibit - (Map - 3 different Ahupua'a, Different Owners with in the Ka'alualu Area? (Exhibit 2)

3. Kapenako Waterhole - not spring - (Exhibit 5)

4. Email from Matt C, no Arch Survey! (Exhibit 1)

5. Acquisition STATUS REPORT DEC. 2020 - PONC (Exhibit 6)

for Ka'ū's Ka'ū under AKTA website READ!! (Exhibit 4)
PETITION LETTER: KAU MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

IN OPPOSITION of the application of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association request for funds of $1,475,000 to acquire 1,841.3 acres of Kiolaka'a Ahupua'a in Ka'u, Hawai'i.

We, as the people of Ka'u and members of the Public in the State of Hawaii, do not agree and STRONGLY OPPOSE and humbly ask all of the Board members to DENY! AKTA Application.

AKTA cannot be trusted due to the facts: Never reach to all the communities including those who disagree with them to try to compromise and still only 2 meetings held by AKTA or they still not being honest, Transparent to the Ka'u Communities. WE ,THE UNDERSIGNS DO NOT SUPPORT! AKTA! (ALA KAHAKAII TRAILS ASSOCIATION).
Aloha Chairperson Case and Honorable Members of the Land Board,

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<tr>
<td>Chad Kosiner</td>
<td>PO Box 377050 V 925-1586</td>
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<td>Varina Kancor</td>
<td>PO Box 1140 Qauna W 9U 712</td>
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<td>Lena Kahumokulalai</td>
<td>PO Box 1563 Kehihekuhihi 96750</td>
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<td>Jeffrey L. Santos</td>
<td>PO Box 377050 V 925-1586</td>
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<td>Nathanael Lindsay</td>
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<td>Kristyn Hanagi</td>
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<td>Alakehoni</td>
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<td>Roseta Malanikai</td>
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<td>28. Mauli Hanagi</td>
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<td>Sharon Hodley</td>
<td>P.O. Box 4490</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hidy Akina</td>
<td>P.O. Box 1502, Kona, HI</td>
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<td>Gear Uina</td>
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<td>Ashley Uina</td>
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Exhibit 3
## KAU MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**PETITION LETTER OF OPPOSITION**

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*Exhibit: 4*
Aloha Chairperson Case and Honorable Members of the Land Board,

PETITION LETTER: FROM KAI MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

IN OPPOSITION of the application of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association request for funds of $1,475,000 to acquire 1,841.3 acres of Kiolaka' ahupua'a in Ka'u, Hawaii.

We, as the people of Ka'u and members of the Public in the State of Hawaii, do not agree and STRONGLY OPPOSE and humbly ask all of the Board members to DENY! AKTA Application. AKTA cannot be trusted due to the facts: Never reach to all the communities including those who disagree with them to try to compromise and still only 2 meetings held by AKTA or they still not being honest, Transparent to the Ka'u Communities. WE, THE UNDERSIGNS DO NOT SUPPORT AKTA (ALA KAHAKAi TRAILS ASSOCIATION).

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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Kulujana</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kula@windfire.com">kula@windfire.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stacie Savelle</td>
<td><a href="mailto:staclesavelle@gmail.com">staclesavelle@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:mariepau@gmail.com">mariepau@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>John Muster</td>
<td>po box 921 mauka hi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lina Emao</td>
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<td>Christina Beck</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pacificwinds94@gmail.com">pacificwinds94@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Loretta Riosgard</td>
<td>s.o. biy. 761 maunawili meaapilani, 5061 tarapuna, ahualoa, mauna kea</td>
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<td>Shane M.</td>
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April 13, 2021

Exhibit 5
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<td>Kahuena Kalamakahia</td>
<td>P.O. Box 2728 Kailua Ill.</td>
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<td>88-1600 Mamanuha Hwk.</td>
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<td>Clifford Lorenzo</td>
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<td>Gerald C.Kanes</td>
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**EXHIBIT 6**
STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF LAND NATURAL RESOURCES
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Aloha Chairperson Case and Honorable Members of the Land Board,

PETITION LETTER:  From: KAI MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

IN OPPOSITION of the application of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association request for funds of $1,475,000 to acquire 1,841.3 acres of Kiolakaa Ahupua'a in Ka'u, Hawaii.

We, as the people of Ka'u and members of the Public in the State of Hawaii, do not agree and STRONGLY OPPOSE and humbly ask all of the Board members to DENY! AKTA Application.

AKTA cannot be trusted due to the facts: Never reach to all the communities including those who disagree with them to try to compromise and still only 2 meetings held by AKTA or they still not being honest, Transparent to the Ka'u Communities. WE, THE UNDERSIGNS DO NOT SUPPORT!

AKTA. (ALA KAHAKAI TRAILS ASSOCIATION)

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24. Likulike Chong Rivera | P.O. Box 91 Honolulu 96705 |        |

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<td>Jeremiah Kauwai</td>
<td><a href="mailto:juliankaauwai@gmail.com">juliankaauwai@gmail.com</a></td>
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Exhibit 9
Aloha Chairperson Case and Honorable Members of the Land Board,

PETITION LETTER: FROM KA'U MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

IN OPPOSITION of the application of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association request for funds of $1,475,000 to acquire 1,841.3 acres of Kiokala' Ahupua'a in Ka'u, Hawaii. We, as the people of Ka'u and members of the Public in the State of Hawaii, do not agree and STRONGLY OPPOSE and humbly ask all of the Board members to DENY! AKTA Application. AKTA cannot be trusted due to the facts: Never reach to all the communities including those who disagree with them to try to compromise and still only 2 meetings held by AKTA or they still not being honest, Transparent to the Ka'u Communities. WE, THE UNDERSIGNS DO NOT SUPPORT AKTA,(ALA KAHAKAI TRAILS ASSOCIATION).
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<tr>
<td>SILVA JR.</td>
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Exhibit-11
Aloha Chairperson Case and Honorable Members of the Land Board,

PETITION LETTER: From Ka'u Multicultural Society

IN OPPOSITION of the application of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association request for funds of $1,475,000 to acquire 1,841.3 acres of Kiolaka'a Ahupua'a in Ka'u, Hawai'i. We, as the people of Ka'u and members of the Public in the State of Hawai'i, do not agree and STRONGLY OPPOSE and humbly ask all of the Board members to DENY! AKTA Application. AKTA cannot be trusted due to the facts: Never reach to all the communities including those who disagree with them to try to compromise and still only 2 meetings held by AKTA or they still not being honest, Transparent to the Ka'u Communities. WE, THE UNDERSIGNS DO NOT SUPPORT! AKTA! (Ala Kahakai Trails Association).

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<tr>
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<td>John Moore</td>
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April 13, 2021
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Exhibit-13
Aloha Chairperson Case and Honorable Members of the Land Board,

PETITION LETTER: From: KA’U MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

IN OPPOSITION of the application of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association request for funds of $1,475,000 to acquire 1,841.3 acres of Kiolaka’a Ahupua’a in Ka’u, Hawai’i.
We, as the people of Ka’u and members of the Public in the State of Hawaii, do not agree and STRONGLY OPPOSE and humbly ask all of the Board members to DENY AKTA Application.
AKTA cannot be trusted due to the facts: Never reach to all the communities including those who disagree with them to try to compromise and still only 2 meetings held by AKTA or they still not being honest, Transparent to the Ka’u Communities. WE, THE UNDERSIGNS DO NOT SUPPORT AKTA(ALA KAHAKAI TRAILS ASSOCIATION).

PRINT NAMES ADDRESS/ EMAIL/ PHONE NO# SIGNATURES

Ms. Cindy L. Aywill colleenwill291@gmail 808-209-1202 cita.
Ellen Hansen
Eva Silina April 8, 2021 333/4401
Unique Kalama-Papili P.O. Box 2392 Kukukuku, HI 808-375 Mokulei Kalama-Papili
Dominique Martin P.O. Box 9314 Kona, HI 808-332-3444 Dinda
Mauna Kahumoku 7685 Oceanview Kailua HI 96737 Maria Kahumoku
Eliza Ann Vieira P.O. Box 863 Pahala HI 96777 Eliza Ann Vieira
Dylan Green PO Box 377352 Ocean View 96737 Dylan Green

Exhibit 14
I did the survey for Manaka'a Village in Kawala Ahupua'a. The Kiolaka'a property doesn't have an arch survey as far as I know, except for some work done by the Bishop Museum at the coast in the 1960s or 70s. Thanks.

This survey of the area surrounding Kaalualu Bay has located and described 91 archaeological sites, the majority of which—such as the stone walls and walled enclosures—can be attributed to the historic era, during which Kaalualu was used for cattle ranching and as an embarkation point for shipping cattle by sea.

With this environmental setting in mind, it can be expected that the archaeological sites would be distributed in a settlement pattern that would reflect a marine orientation. It would then consist of dispersed coastal hamlets containing house sites with occasional canoe sheds, fishing shrines, and other features associated with marine-oriented activities.

The results of this survey indicate that the settlement pattern at Kaalualu Bay does not conform to the expected pattern, though the distribution of sites at Paiahaa Bay does tend to support it. This archaeological evidence at Paiahaa Bay, in light of Kaalualu Bay's long history of vulnerability to tsunami destruction, leads to the conclusion that the Paiahaa Bay area was the preferred center for prehistoric Hawaiian settlement.

The bay that Cook's cutter investigated was probably Kaalualu, which, traditions tell us, was a favorite fishing center of Hawaiian chiefs.

Exhibit 1
The shores of Kaalualu Bay share three Ka'u land divisions (ahupua'a): Kawela, Kiolakaa, and Waiohinu (Figs. 16 and 17). In the Mahele of 1848, the Ahupua'a of Waiohinu became Crown Land (the personal land of Kamehameha III), Kiolakaa became Government Land, and Kawela became one of the Ka'u lands of A. Keohokalole, the mother of King Kalakaua and Queen Liliuokalani (Indices..., 1929:26,33,71; Kelly, 1969:50; Ladd and Kelly, 1969:3).

**EXHIBIT 2**

My question will Bishop Estate sell and will the State of Hawaii sell these lands to the previous owners and now? To AKTA (Alo Kahakai T.A.A.) is this fair to the people of Kau? HEWA!
Learn how you can get involved and keep updated on the ongoing effort to protect, preserve, and perpetuate the wahi pana of Kaʻū.

**KIOLAKAʻA AND MANAKAʻA**

**CONSERVATION PURCHASE UPDATES**

At its January 22, 2021 meeting, the State Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) deferred approval of funding to conserve Kaʻū coast lands at Kiolakaʻa and Kawala Kai (Manakaʻa), threatening to award Legacy Land Conservation Program funding to Maui projects. After some members of the community testified against the projects, the BLNR gave the applicant Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) additional time to reach out to the Kaʻū community to determine whether residents and community members support the preservation of the Kaʻū coastline, or whether the funds should go to Maui.

If BLNR does not approve funding for Kiolakaʻa and Manakaʻa, the two Kaʻū parcels already have subdivision plans and surveys that the landowners could implement right away. **NOT TRUE!**

-- Keoni Fox, Ala Kahakai Trail Association Board Member

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**ONGOING PROJECTS**

- **WAIKAPUNA**
- **KAUNAMANO**
- **KAWALA**
- **MANAKAʻA**
- **KIOLAKAʻA & KAʻALUʻALU**
- **KĀKOʻO KAʻŪ**

---

A Zoom community meeting was held on Tuesday, February 16 at 4:30 p.m., hosted by ATA.

**HAD OPPOSITION IN THIS MEETING**

**NEXT MEETING APRIL 19, 2021 AT 6 P.M., ZOOM**
Should site B18-7, Kapenako waterhole, be endangered by blasting or other construction activities, it is recommended that the site be surveyed and recorded in detail and test excavated. Situated at the hub of a network of radiating trails, Kapenako waterhole is one of the few sources of potable water in this barren and arid region. An archaeological investigation of it could provide valuable information on the settlement pattern and resource utilization of the early Hawaiian inhabitants of the Kaalualu area.

"KAPENAKO WATERHOLE"
"SUGAR CAPTAIN"
(waterhole)
Kapenako spring and anchialine pond complex

Among the sites that represent prehistoric Hawaiian utilization of the area, the most notable are the five clusters of bait cups situated on the rocks along the ocean's edge, Kapenako waterhole, and the scattered house sites around Paiauna Bay.

The Kaalualu survey area, including both Kaalualu and Paiauna Bays, possesses an environmental setting highly conducive to marine exploitation by the aboriginal Hawaiians. The ocean waters offer a variety of marine habitats suitable for subsistence exploitation, the bays provide a protected landing for canoes, and Kapenako waterhole (site B18-7) assures a constant potable-water supply.

Exhibit 5
### Acquisition Status Report

**December 16, 2020**

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<th>Property Description</th>
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<td>Hāmākua, Hawai‘i; TMK: 4-8-04-06</td>
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<td>Hāwi’i Banyan Trees Property, North Kohala</td>
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**County Total Preservation Fund (with no matching funds)** = **$33,459,671.93**

**Grand Total Preservation Fund** = **$44,622,034.53**

**Grand Total Matching Funds Awarded** = **$7,434,083.77**

**Grand Total Private Donations** = **$2,000,000.00**

**Acquisition Grand Totals** = **$54,056,118.30**

(Matching Funds, Private Donations, and Preservation Fund)

---

**Total Acreage Acquired (as of Dec. 15, 2020)** = **6,766.2029**

**Kau**

- Kahua Olohu = 13,000.00
- Kahuku Coastal Property = 3,127,950.00
- Kiiwa = 81,303.00
- Waipuna C = 228,105.00

**EXHIBIT-6**
Eʻoluʻolu, pale iā Kaʻū no nā hanauna kokoke e paʻa...
P lease, PROTECT KAʻŪ for the NEAR and FUTURE GENERATIONS...
WE, the UNDERSIGNED highly RESPECT and are in SUPPORT of our NA KUPUNA of KAʻŪ, HAWAIʻI;
UNITED, WE STAND IN STRONG OPPOSITION AGAINST ALA KAHA KAI TRAILS ASSOCIATION in
ACQUIRING MORE FUNDING FROM THE LAND CONSERVATION FUND for ANY and ALL LANDS in MOKU
O KAʻU.
It is OUR KULEANA of our NA KUPUNA and the PEOPLES of KAʻŪ to PRESERVE OUR ‘AINA, PERPETUATE
TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PRACTICES, and HISTORY for EVERYONE NOW and FOREVER.

RE: C. DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

2. Approve Grant Awards from available funds in the Land Conservation Fund, as requested in
applications to the Fiscal Year 2021 Legacy Land Conservation Program and as
recommended by The Legacy Land Conservation Commission, for the Acquisition of
Interests and Rights in Parcels of Land having value as a resource to the State, for:

B. ALA KAHA KAI TRAIL ASSOCIATION, $1,475,000, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF
APPROXIMATELY 1,841.3 ACRES AT KAʻŪ, HAWAIʻI (KIOLAKAA), TAX MAP KEY
NUMBERS: (3) 9-4-01:008:009, :016, :017, AND :023

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Aloha kakou

Mahalo for sharing your feelings and concerns about Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s (ATA) involvement in the protection of Kiolaka’a and Manaka’a. We heard loud and clear that you and others in Ka’u have felt excluded in planning for the future of these lands and the lands at Waikapuna and Kaunamano. Please understand that was not our intention. There are no excuses, but some of our progress in reaching out to you and the broader Ka’u community has been hindered by COVID-19. Please let us assure you that ATA’s vision is community-based management of the trail and its surrounding natural and cultural resources. Community-based management cannot happen without you and everyone in Ka’u.

We welcome your participation and collaboration as integral parts of the planning and management process. We have deep respect and aloha for the ‘ohana and kupuna of Ka’u and protecting these places for future generations cannot happen without your mana’o, participation, and active stewardship by the Ka’u community.

Because it’s not safe to meet in person due to COVID, we would love to talk story with you over the phone or by zoom to hear more of your mana’o. If you are open to talking story, please send us your phone number and let us know the best dates / times to reach you. If you want to meet by zoom we are happy to set up a zoom meeting link.

Looking forward to connecting with you.

Me ka ha’aha’a,

Kaleo Paik, Secretary & Board Member, Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Keoni Fox, Board Member, Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Aloha kakou

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Keoni Fox, Board Member, Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Aloha kakou

Mahalo for sharing your feelings and concerns about Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s (ATA) involvement in the protection of Kiolaka’a and Manaka’a. We heard loud and clear that you and others in Ka’u have felt excluded in planning for the future of these lands and the lands at Waikapuna and Kaunamano. Please understand that was not our intention. There are no excuses, but some of our progress in reaching out to you and the broader Ka’u community has been hindered by COVID-19. Please let us assure you that ATA’s vision is community-based management of the trail and its surrounding natural and cultural resources. Community-based management cannot happen without you and everyone in Ka’u.

We welcome your participation and collaboration as integral parts of the planning and management process. We have deep respect and aloha for the ‘ohana and kupuna of Ka’u and protecting these places for future generations cannot happen without your mana’o, participation, and active stewardship by the Ka’u community.

Because it’s not safe to meet in person due to COVID, we would love to talk story with you over the phone or by zoom to hear more of your mana’o. If you are open to talking story, please send us your phone number and let us know the best dates / times to reach you. If you want to meet by zoom we are happy to set up a zoom meeting link.

Looking forward to connecting with you.

Me ka ha’aha’a,

Kaleo Paik, Secretary & Board Member, Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Keoni Fox, Board Member, Ala Kahakai Trail Association
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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Looking forward to connecting with you.

Me ka ha’aha’a,

Kaleo Paik, Secretary & Board Member, Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Keoni Fox, Board Member, Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Aloha Kakou apau,

My name is Darylnn Ke. I was born and raised in Ka’u all of my life. I am a member of Hana Laulima La Hui O ka’u, The ka’u Multiculture Society and a volunteer ka’u Fire Fighter Delta 11.

I am writing this letter to express my strong opposition in allowing Ala Kahakai Trail Association to get the funding for Kiolaka’a.

The Ala Kahakai Trails Association is not from ka’u as well as their Board Members. Therefore, I oppose against Ala Kahakai Trails in acquiring funding or Land in ka’u.

Mahalo Anunui,
Darylnn Ke

P.O. Box 242 Pahala Hawaii 96777
(808) 9372394
dke_1978@yahoo.com
Aloha Kakou,

My name is Jesse Ke. I am a Kupuna and a resident of Ka’u. I am affiliated with various groups. Ka’u multicultural society, Ka’u Advisory Council of Kupuna, Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka’u, Pele Defense, Hawaii Volcano Kupuna Counsel, Hana Laulima Lahui or Ka’u and Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe.

Recently we the Kupuna gathered to address the issue concerning Kiolaka’a, the bulldozer and the developer. After many hours of discussing what Legacy Land had suggested. I firmly oppose Ala Kahakai Trails to receive the funds to purchase Kiolaka’a.

Waikapuna was the eye opener for Kupuna because Ala Kahakai Trails access permits for Waikupuna, “restrictions” are No opihiki picking, fishing, use of ‘upena and uma. They use these words of conservation “We Will Protect”, care maintain the coastline, trails, historical sites serving Ka’u and the people. Now through their restrictions they are hindering and interfering with our customary and traditional rights to gather and care for our families.

The pilikia is they have no relationship with the ‘aina or the people. Their ‘Ike is western thinking. They see the ‘aina like many other who have pass through Ka’u. They want to own and protect. They have eyes but can not see “Maka pa”. We are the greatest resource of Ka’u that need protection from out side organizations like Ala Kahakai Trail Association. Please hear us. Life on Oahu is different from Ka’u. We live from hand to mouth. What we catch is what the family eat. Is this the life for Waikupuna. What will life be at Kiolaka’a?

As a Kupuna I am concern for the next generation. That’s why I stand today as the “Leo Nui” for my ‘Ohana my 29 mo’opuna, 38 mo’opuna kuakahi and mo’opuna Kua Lua. It is for them I stand in opposition. Please I don’t want anyone to assume Kupuna is asleep or we don’t care. We are still ‘Eleu and Leo Pili Aku. Eo Ka’u!!!

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Jessie Ke

PO BOX 562 Pahala, Ka’u 96777
Hm- (808)9288917
Cel- (808)8951573
Email- Kupuna_0562@yahoo.com
Aloha,

My name is Maile Keanu, born and raised Waiohinu resident of Ka’u. I have lived here for 67 years raising my 5 children, 25 grandchildren, and now my 10 great grandchildren. Having the privilege to experience all that Kiolakaa has to offer and knowing how much it deserves to be protected, I personally disagree with any development of any hotel, resort, to be done on any land or shoreline of Ka’u. I strongly believe in the preservation this land for the future generations not just for my family but for all family’s of Ka’u. Our parents used to take us there when we were little as do I with my family. We used to go fishing, camping, and overall enjoying and respecting everything of Ka’alu’alu and Kamilo. Ka’u lands and coastlines deserve to stay at peace especially with the many cultural significance that it offers. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I asked that you take it into consideration. I Support The Preserving of Kiolaka’a and Ka’alu’alu

Mahalo,

Maile Keanu
Aloha,

I will keep this short.

My name is Cheryl Keanu-Aiono. I am a native of Hawai'i, specifically Ka'u district. I was born in Pahala and graduated from Ka'u High in 1991. I have since moved away, however, my roots is still there. My parents have since passed, however, my siblings and their families and their families AND their families have planted and have rooted themselves there. I want to keep Hawai'i, Hawai'i. The Hawai'i I knew growing up. We do not want to see buildings where we should be able to see the oceans and mountains free of any obstruction. Frankly, I don't want a "Waikiki" in my hometown. With that said, I'm opposing the acquisition and development at Kiolaka'a in Ka'u.

Keep Ka'u, Ka'u!

Kind Regards,
Cheryl Keanu-Aiono
Aloha kākou,

As a native Hawaiian resident of Moku o Hawaiʻi and as a hula person, I strongly support preserving the natural beauty of our coastline. The land at Kiolaka’a has many ancient and sacred historical sites as well as endangered dryland ecosystems. Preserving this stretch of Hawaiʻi’s natural coastline is the best decision you could make to ensure opportunities for future generations to have access for enrichment purposes—When one considers how little unspoiled, undeveloped coast that remains in the State, it makes perfect sense. Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition. Thank you.

Naʻu me ka ʻoiaʻiʻo,

Na Sheyenne Hōkūokalani Keliʻikuli
Aloha kakou,
As a resident of Ka‘ū, I strongly support preserving the natural beauty of our coastline. The land at Kiolaka’a has many ancient and sacred historical sites as well as endangered dryland ecosystems. Preserving this stretch of Hawaii’s natural coastline makes good sense for future generations when one considers how little unspoiled undeveloped coast the remains in the State.
Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition. Thank you.
Signed sincerely,
Thomas King (Honu'apo Ka‘ū)

e-mail: honuapokau@yahoo.com
Aloha Kakou:

As long time residents of the Kiolaka'a Ahupua'a, we the homeowners at Kiolaka'a Orchards Estates, recognize the urgency of protecting our coastline from unwanted and unsightly development by interests outside our State who may not understand the delicate nature of our endemic ecosystems. We wish to see the Ka‘ū coast preserved from development in perpetuity for future generations and we support Ala Kahakai Trail Association as the initial land steward.

Very Sincerely,
Rowena Duncan, President
Barney Frazier, Vice President
Elizabeth Jenkins, Secretary

Kiolaka'a Orchards Estates Homeowners Association
PO Box 500, 94-6448 Mamalahoa Highway, Naalehu, HI 96772
We, the undersigned, support the hui of Ka'ū families, community members, and organizations who are working with the nonprofits Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land to help our Ka'ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka'a and Manāka'a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala) in Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island.

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<td>Linda Fanning</td>
<td>Na'a</td>
<td>808-866-6649</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:christina.ptdu@gmail.com">christina.ptdu@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>MARK TWAIN</td>
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<td>Naalehu</td>
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<td>Joy Santiago</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:rashani.rea@yahoo.com">rashani.rea@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Kim@<a href="mailto:perrot@gmail.com">perrot@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Dunbar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muir Barton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark H. Whitcomb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christina Ellsworth</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Calvin Y Hamada</td>
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<td>None</td>
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<td>Jean Hayek</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Jacky Okimoto</td>
<td>Pahoa, HI</td>
<td>808 244 9054</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kanahelej@gmail.com">kanahelej@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teena Greene</td>
<td>Green Sands Sub.</td>
<td>974-2017</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Alikkatagart@gmail.com">Alikkatagart@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deanne Schulz</td>
<td>Naalehu</td>
<td>307-272-0208</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dschulz77@hotmail.com">dschulz77@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liz Crook</td>
<td>Naalehu</td>
<td>808-345-0511</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Crook</td>
<td>Naalehu</td>
<td>307-272-0208</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Schultz</td>
<td>Naalehu</td>
<td>307-272-0208</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dschulz77@hotmail.com">dschulz77@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heidi Flores</td>
<td>Naalehu</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:hudeebeach@yahoo.com">hudeebeach@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abram Sandwall</td>
<td>OU</td>
<td>808-491-1468</td>
<td><a href="mailto:abram_sandwall70@yahoo.com">abram_sandwall70@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roark Reiger</td>
<td>Whalima</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sony Ashwood</td>
<td></td>
<td>808-745-0550</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sjoranger666@gmail.com">sjoranger666@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Becker</td>
<td>Pahoa</td>
<td>908-927-2262</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cdkane@protonmail.com">cdkane@protonmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Kaila</td>
<td>Ocean View</td>
<td>808-376-7586</td>
<td><a href="mailto:timj.kailai@gmail.com">timj.kailai@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stacy Richard</td>
<td>Ocean View</td>
<td>808-430-3444</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Terraces.kau@gmail.com">Terraces.kau@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck B.</td>
<td>Naalehu</td>
<td>406-855-5755</td>
<td><a href="mailto:homesteadchuck332@gmail.com">homesteadchuck332@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Ann L. Hu</td>
<td>Kā'ū, Hawai'i</td>
<td>808-430-7802</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shu366@yahoo.com">shu366@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moki Akeo</td>
<td>Kā'ū, Hawai'i</td>
<td>808-269-7205</td>
<td><a href="mailto:moki23@icloud.com">moki23@icloud.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Oatman</td>
<td>Mark Twain Estates, Kā'ū, HI</td>
<td>808-333-7319</td>
<td><a href="mailto:davidj-oatman@gmail.com">davidj-oatman@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyatt Stover</td>
<td>Kā'ū, HI, Mark Twain Estates</td>
<td>541-207-6819</td>
<td>Wyatt Stover <a href="mailto:2000@gmail.com">2000@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
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We, the undersigned, support the hui of Ka‘u families, community members, and organizations who are working with the nonprofits Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land to help our Ka‘u community purchase and forever protect Kioleka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala) in Ka‘u, Hawai‘i Island.

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<tr>
<td>Audra Zook</td>
<td>Na‘alehu</td>
<td>808-345-8077</td>
<td><a href="mailto:azook88@gmail.com">azook88@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Laniada</td>
<td>Hilo</td>
<td>808-785-4339</td>
<td><a href="mailto:b2dumond888@hotmail.com">b2dumond888@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Roberts</td>
<td>O‘N</td>
<td>808-345-8252</td>
<td>eaglefeather@<a href="mailto:ak2@aol.com">ak2@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Roberts</td>
<td>Road to Hona‘a Cap K</td>
<td>808-987-7773</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lovewhitewolf@aol.com">lovewhitewolf@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Johnson</td>
<td>Road to the Sea</td>
<td>808-971-0145</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Rose</td>
<td>Milolii</td>
<td>808-345-7610</td>
<td><a href="mailto:carlys@larryrose.com">carlys@larryrose.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Neillie Davis</td>
<td>Naalehu</td>
<td>808 854-4287</td>
<td><a href="mailto:neillie.salmo@yahoo.com">neillie.salmo@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Mento</td>
<td>Naalehu</td>
<td>808 430-9256</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stephanie.mento2420@gmail.com">stephanie.mento2420@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica Gibson</td>
<td>Honolulu</td>
<td>808-945-26594</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vgibson@hawaii.edu">vgibson@hawaii.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Miller</td>
<td>Holualoa</td>
<td>808-845-6883</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kshoutsden@yahoo.com">kshoutsden@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley &amp; Shandee Davis Fujikawa (Na'alehu Wheelchair)</td>
<td>Naalehu</td>
<td>808-747-1629</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shandee.fujikawa@cs.com">shandee.fujikawa@cs.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaitalani Fujikawa</td>
<td>O'ahu</td>
<td>808-747-1629</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicki &amp; Wendy Davis</td>
<td>Naalehu</td>
<td>808 924-9420</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Alberts</td>
<td>Naalehu</td>
<td>808 430-2488</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kuli'i Pablo</td>
<td>Naalehu</td>
<td>808-397-1512</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Michie</td>
<td>Mā'ili</td>
<td>808-785-0766</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katalyn Kuliipuna</td>
<td>Mountain View</td>
<td>808-747-0561</td>
<td><a href="mailto:xokayd17z10@yahoo.com">xokayd17z10@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heath Franklin</td>
<td>Pahoa</td>
<td>808-938-5652</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Anderson</td>
<td>Kona</td>
<td>808-345-8177</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaime Fernandez</td>
<td>Kona</td>
<td>808-443-9525</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jvferner@gmail.com">jvferner@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Jones</td>
<td>Naʻalachu</td>
<td>808-385-53463</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mjeonesu@gmail.com">mjeonesu@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Alvarez</td>
<td>Kona</td>
<td>808-224-3231</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nicole_alvarez@yahoo.com">nicole_alvarez@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rich Alberts Jr.</td>
<td>Kona</td>
<td>808-376-9432</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pohahawaiini Lipe</td>
<td>Naʻalehu</td>
<td>(808) 756-6698</td>
<td><a href="mailto:genesish.snh.facsu@gmail.com">genesish.snh.facsu@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean A. Kness</td>
<td>Naʻalehu</td>
<td>970-219-9567</td>
<td><a href="mailto:d.kness@msn.com">d.kness@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jolynn Grimes</td>
<td>Naʻalehu</td>
<td>(808) 358-5242</td>
<td><a href="mailto:grimesj650@yahoo.com">grimesj650@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Grace</td>
<td>Naʻalehu</td>
<td>(808) 275-6504</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jonogc420@gmail.com">jonogc420@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaila Olson</td>
<td>Pāhoa</td>
<td>(808) 785-7040</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kaila02@hawaii.edu">kaila02@hawaii.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleen Kui</td>
<td>Pāhoa</td>
<td>(808) 758-2245</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Colleen.Kui@Yahoo.com">Colleen.Kui@Yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilani Lipe</td>
<td>Waiʻoliʻiny</td>
<td>(808) 370-8831</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kulkesnmmy@gmail.com">kulkesnmmy@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinnten Kaawa</td>
<td>Naʻalehu</td>
<td>(808) 227-6999</td>
<td>none</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less Kaawa-Lorenzo</td>
<td>Waiʻoliʻiny</td>
<td>(808) 356-6514</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jhkaawa@gmail.com">jhkaawa@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lainie Ataipai</td>
<td>Waiʻoliʻiny</td>
<td>(808) 430-2021</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lataipai01@gmail.com">lataipai01@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lani Piliapa</td>
<td>Waiʻoliʻiny</td>
<td>(808) 209-1222</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ania.piliapa@gmail.com">ania.piliapa@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fauni M. Kness</td>
<td>Naʻalehu</td>
<td>970-219-7547</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fkness@msn.com">fkness@msn.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pomakuai Olson</td>
<td>Waiʻoliʻiny</td>
<td>808-443-6851</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pomakuai02s@gmail.com">pomakuai02s@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacy Kaawen</td>
<td>Naʻalehu</td>
<td>808-747-6457</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lacy.kaanua1985@gmail.com">lacy.kaanua1985@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kolby Sarne-Smith</td>
<td>Naalehu</td>
<td>808.217.6051</td>
<td><a href="mailto:SarneSmith@kaimoi.org">SarneSmith@kaimoi.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piilani P.E.</td>
<td>Pahala, Hawai‘i</td>
<td>808.797.8480</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peyespiliahi1990@yahoo.com">peyespiliahi1990@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynell K. Kaawā</td>
<td>Naalehu Hi</td>
<td>808.608.0015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chanzey Kaawā</td>
<td>Naalehu Hi</td>
<td>224.9755</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>titre</td>
<td>Ocean View Hi</td>
<td>808.731.385</td>
<td><a href="mailto:free@rai-hi.com">free@rai-hi.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celeste Aia-Lownze</td>
<td>Ho‘okone</td>
<td>808.464.2320</td>
<td>paradise-beauty888@</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quincy Kaawā</td>
<td>Wai`ohina</td>
<td>808.8479</td>
<td>QuincyKaawawKaawaw@</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernie Lipe</td>
<td>Wai`ohina</td>
<td>430-1736(808) N/A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Kaawā</td>
<td>Wai`ohina</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sordan Koawā</td>
<td>Wai`ohina</td>
<td>(808)936-5542 N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Kaawā-K.</td>
<td>Naalehu</td>
<td>(808)315-4152 N/A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Davis</td>
<td>Waiohinu</td>
<td>413-2409</td>
<td><a href="mailto:a.kukua@yahoo.com">a.kukua@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Davis</td>
<td>Waiohinu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Naiden</td>
<td>Na‘alehu</td>
<td>808 928 5581</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kona808realestate@gmail.com">kona808realestate@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Cardare</td>
<td>Na‘alehu</td>
<td>808 929-9665</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bigeyeleslie@yahoo.com">bigeyeleslie@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ngaire Gilmour</td>
<td>Pahala</td>
<td>731-6091</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ngaire@hotmail.com">ngaire@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hettie Rush</td>
<td>Na‘alehu</td>
<td></td>
<td>hetlir <a href="mailto:rush@gmail.com">rush@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Wagner</td>
<td>Kuku</td>
<td>747-6966</td>
<td><a href="mailto:j608000f@aol.com">j608000f@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura J. Wong</td>
<td>Na‘alehu</td>
<td>415 717 5692</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wagdawg@gmail.com">wagdawg@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Aloha kakou,
As a resident of Kaʻū, I strongly support preserving the natural beauty of our coastline. The land at Kiolakaʻa has many ancient and sacred historical sites as well as endangered dryland ecosystems. Preserving this stretch of Hawaii’s natural coastline makes good sense for future generations when one considers how little unspoiled undeveloped coast the remains in the State.
Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition.
Thank you.
Signed sincerely,
Kirsi Klein
Aloha Friends,

Please buy the land at Kiolaka'a to protect it. My name is Lono and I want to save this land for kids to have fun with their families. Endangered Hawksbill turtles nest there too.

Sincerely,

Lono, 9 years old
From: Lono Kuahiwinui
To: DLNR.BLR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] please buy the land at klaka,a to protect it, my name is lono and i want to save this island for kids to have fun with their families. Endangered hawksbill turtles nest here too. sincerely
Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:52:49 AM
Aloha
I strongly support the purchase of Kiolokaa for it’s natural purity and it’s significant part in Hawaiian culture.
Please, don’t let this opportunity go to waste.
Mahalo
Andre Lang
Aloha,
I am a resident of Big Island and reside in Pahala, Ka’ū. My grandparents are from Ka’ū, I wish to see the Ka’ū coast preserved from development in perpetuity and I support Ala Kahakai Trail Association as the initial land steward at Kiolaka’a. Kiolaka’a is a sacred historical site and also home to endangered dryland ecosystems. Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition.

Mahalo,
Jeila Lee
Aloha,

I am a resident of Big Island and reside in Pahala, Ka‘ū. My grandparents are from Ka‘ū, I wish to see the Ka‘ū coast preserved from development in perpetuity and I support Ala Kahakai Trail Association as the initial land steward at Kiolaka’a. Kiolaka’a is a sacred historical site and also home to endangered dryland ecosystems. Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition.

Mahalo,
Jeila Lee
Sharon Leong-Moraes  
P. O. Box 612  
Volcano, HI  96785  

April 20, 2021  

State of Hawai`i  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
Honolulu, HI   96813  

SUBJECT: Ala Kahakai Trail Association, $1,475,000.00, for the Acquisition of Approximately 1,841.3 Acres at Ka`u, Hawai`i (Kiolaka`a), Tax Map Key Numbers (3) 9-4-001:008, :009, :016, :017, and :023

Aloha Chairperson Case and Members of the Land Board,

I, Sharon Leong-Moraes, emphatically oppose and disapprove of any and all grant awards for the acquisition of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association of Kiolaka`a, Ka`u, Hawai`i. Let it be noted, I am strongly in support of Na Kupuna and their Ka`u Community, to keep Ka`u, Ka`u. Na Kupuna continues to protect, teach, share, and perpetuate our history, traditions, heritage, language, and culture. All of these have been passed on to them and will continue to be passed on for generations to come.

The blatant disrespect shown to Na Kupuna by Ala Kahakai Trail Association is absolutely unacceptable. It’s deplorable to come into any community and assume you know more than them; especially when you divide the community by picking and choosing who you want on your side, before introducing yourself to Na Kupuna and the majority of the Ka`u Community. This is HEWA!

In obtaining lands in the disguise of conservation to protect, preserve, and prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect, then why does Ala Kahakai Trail Association have cattle on these acquired lands? Continued destruction of
endemic and indigenous plants, species, fresh water springs, archaeological sites, iwi kupuna, pollution, especially if a waste water treatment plant is allowed to be built, etc. is not conservation. The possible development, such as eco-tourism, is not conservation. Historically, conservation and colonialism are closely related, as shown all around the world. Both are used to take lands away, which rightfully belongs to the original people of these lands. Eventually, the lands are either developed, sold for development, mined, forests destroyed for logging, cattle grazing, etc., all in the name of conservation.

Many people of Ka`u depend upon subsistence fishing and hunting to provide food for their families. Presently, locked gates are preventing better access to the kai, as well as compromising and/or denying Kapili Rights at Waikapuna. Will this also occur at Kiolaka`a too? For that matter, where are the management plans for Waikapuna, Kiolaka`a, and the other coastline lands Ala Kahakai Trail Association has acquired and are looking to acquire? Where is the transparency?

As Chairperson, Ms. Suzanne Case, previously said at the last BLNR Meeting on January 22, 2021, “We have gotten criticism in addition to an audit, and in the legislature both for rubber stamping, for not following their very carefully thought through process.” If this statement implies a compromised process, why are you even considering Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s acquisition to acquire Kiolaka`a and all further requests to acquire more coastal lands along the Ka`u coastlines?

Please note that Ala Kahakai Trail Association have not followed the three main Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Kapa`akai Supreme Court law, as previously stated to you by the Aha Moku Advisory Committee in their letters dated March 31, 2021 and January 22, 2021. Sadly, for a non-profit organization, made up of Kanaka Maoli, cultural practitioners, conservationists, protectors, that the above was not done and completed first, is in itself, a travesty.

Harassments and rumors must be addressed. Why? Harassments and the spreading of false rumors or lies, causes ugliness, dissention among people, and sometimes violence. We are all adults. We have the right to choose who we want to support. No one has the right to interfere in another person’s right
of personal liberty and choices. Therefore, I request that Ala Kahakai Trail Association keeps its Officers, Board Members, and supporters in check. You are continuing to alienate yourselves from Na Kupuna and the Ka`u Community by allowing these kinds of things to occur.

I, Sharon Leong-Moraes, a Kanaka Maoli, a kupuna, and with many ancestral ties to Ka`u, and related to many families still living there, I respectfully request that the BLNR Chairperson, Ms. Suzanne Case, and Board Members, deny the application of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association for the acquisition of Kiolaka`a.

Sincerely,

Sharon Leong-Moraes
Aloha,

As a resident of the Big Island, I wish to see the Ka‘ū coast preserved from development in perpetuity and I support Ala Kahakai Trail Association as the initial land steward at Kiolaka’a. Kiolaka’a is a sacred historical site and also home to endangered dryland ecosystems. Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition.

Mahalo nui loa,

Amara Lovato
Dear Friends,

Please buy the land at Kiolaka'a to protect it. My name is Jussi and I want to save this land for kids to have fun with their families. Endangered Hawksbill turtles nest there too.

Sincerely,

Jussi, 10 years old
Aloha. My name is Scott Haililani Mahoney and I can trace my genealogy 7 generations in Ka’u to the chief Mokila. I have travelled the ala kahakai national historic trail and swam along the coastline and have seen first hand a Hawaii that we may never see again unless we are successful in protecting Kiolaka’a, Ka’u from imminent development. I have seen the springs of Kapenako and ponds filled with opae ula, sea caves with hundreds of noio birds that led our ancestors to the schools of aku that roam the coastline along kiolaka’a. I have seen countless burial mounds and caves with historical meanings. The dry land forest is filled with native plants and trees. It is unconscionable to not support agenda item C2B. If ever there was a time to step up and save a part of Hawaii that we only dream of THIS IS THE TIME!

I serve on the State of Hawaii Island Burial Council and am also a commissioner on the Hawaii County Cultural Resource Commission so I understand the importance of the Kiolaka’a lands. You don’t have to live in Ka’u to be Ka’u. You don’t even have to be Hawaiian to feel Hawaiian. All you have to do is stand up for what is right and say “I SUPPORT KIOLAKA’A!”.

Mahalo
Dear friends,

Please buy the land at Kiolaka'a to protect it. My name is Daevin and I want to save this land for kids to have fun with their families. Endangered Hawksbill turtles nest there too.

Sincerely,

Daevin, 8 years old.
Dear Board Members,

We are Michael A and Nana-Honua Manuel from Volcano, Hawaii. The Manuel 'ohana has lived for generations in Ka'u. Michael's mothers 'ohana (Breithaupt & Macomber) come from Ka'u as well. We have genealogical ties to Kamao'a, Ha'ao, Ki'olaka'a, Waiomao, Palahulu and more. We have many cousins still living in Ka'u. We are in strong opposition to the purchase of Ki'olaka'a lands at Ka'u by the Ala Kahakai Trails Association. We understand from kupunas & cultural practitioners of Ka'u that Ala Kahakai Trail Association is not providing good stewardship of Waikapuna as evidenced by my cousins not being allowed access for fishing, hunting and salt making. And now Ala Kahakai Trail Association wants to gain more acreage where it will not allow access to traditional & cultural practices. Preservation of the 'aina without including the maka'ainana & the 'ohnas of the land who have lived and stewarded this 'aina for many generations is not pono. We approve conservation and preservation of these lands but we question the ability of this entity to do this.

Malama Pono,

Michael A & Nana-Honua Manuel
To the State of Hawaii BLNR,

Please help us, the people of Kau, of Hawaii, to stop the encroachment of Development at Kiolakaa, that the community collectively called Kaalualu. This land is part of the Kau Coast that our Kanaka Maoli from so many organizations have waged a never ending battle to stop the developers from destroying the property that we, the people of Kau, of Hawaii, cherish and hold dear, the very essence of cultural and spiritual connection to our lives, to our children’s children to the land.

I am a third generation of Kau and have seen in my life, the closure of the sugar plantation, the ranches and Naalehu Dairy. We took for granted our Kau Coast, pristine and unspoiled, a source for spiritual and cultural enjoyment. Kaalualu was known for majestic Kiawe and Lantana, with the colors of the rainbow. We did not, could not envision that the serene beauty of Kolakaa Bay would be bulldozed, fenced in, sub-divided and sold to the highest bidder, at the cost and expense of the destruction of the land, the land that the people, not only from Kau, but from all of Hawaii should enjoy, in perpetuity.

The BLNR has the power and I appeal to you to help us preserve Kiolakaa.

Thank you.

Michael Manuel
Keike O Ka Aina
Dis is not right dis Aina is where we learn hw to gather for our ohana an teach the other younger generation hw to gather like how we was thought from our parents an grandpas.it's like every one who lives in Kau it's like there back yard so hw can u take it from us very sad
Sent from my iPhone
Aloha,
My name is Jolisa Masters and I support agenda item C2B Kiolaka'a. I am Native Hawaiian and my children have connection to this Aina from generations before them. Protecting Kiolaka'a is important to me because of our physical dependence and spiritual well being in connection to our lands. We cannot continue to allow our land to be desecrated and disrespected to the point where it will no longer be a viable, sustainable way of life for us, our children and our future generations. As it stands now, Kiolaka'a is in imminent danger of not only development, but also mismanagement and improper land use by people who are uneducated in perpetuating our culture so that many generations can continue to utilize our lands like our Kupuna before us. It is our Kuleana as a community to manage our land.

Mahalo nui,

Jolisa Masters
To whom this concerns. Please continue to support Ka’u master plan by making this timely decision of acquiring the kilolakaa land. This is an important decision for all people of Hawaii. This decision should be considered with the bigger picture to preserve and protect large tracts of land in kau and keep a master plan for future generations in conservation and open space land. Many places in Hawaii have already been developed and large parcels of open space land is no longer an option. Your consideration for this acquisition assures all residents of Hawaii that there is open space for recreation and conservation preserved on the Big Island in the district of kau. As land prices become so expensive the importance of preserving areas of Hawaii that are not in hotel condo commercial and residential development is important. With your decision please also consider the benefit of the acquisition for future generations. With respect. Marla McCasland

Sent from my iPhone
Aloha BLNR members

I am writing as a community member and resident of Hawaii Island. Although I live in the moku of Puna, the health and wellness of the Ka‘ū environment is important to me and my family. I am writing in relation to the agenda item for Friday's meeting:

ALA KAHAKAI TRAIL ASSOCIATION, $1,475,000, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 1,841.3 ACRES AT KA‘Ū, HAWAI‘I (KIOLAKA’A), TAX MAP KEY NUMBERS: (3) 9-4-01:008:009, :016, :017, AND :023

We support the acquisition of Kiolaka’a for the preservation of Ka‘ū's natural and cultural resources. The community has worked hard for decades to ensure that this precious area is protected from development. Their success is evident with the protection of many adjacent parcels. Now is the time to save this key section and link these efforts resulting in long term public benefit. Benefits not for a handful of homeowners but for the broader community.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Sierra McDaniel
As a member of the Ke Ao Halii board I would like to express community appreciation for the work of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission and DLNR staff, and for the Mokae I grant received in 2020. In addition, I want to acknowledge continued support from the community for this project and for funding of two agenda items scheduled for April 23, 2021:

C-1, A. Ke Ao Hālīʻi (Save the Hāna Coast), $1,581,700, for the acquisition of approximately 30.3 acres at Hāna, Maui (Makaʻalae Lands), TMK No (2) 1-4-012:002 and (2) 1-4-010:030, :032, and :034.

C-2, D. Ke Ao Hālīʻi (Save the Hāna Coast), $1,863,300, for the acquisition of approximately 32.7 acres at Hāna, Maui (Mokae II LandS), TMK No: (2) 1-4-010:008, :009:010, AND :012.
Sincerely
Mahalo nui loa

Chad Meyer, MD, MSc, DTM&H
Community and Tropical Medicine
808-264-4107
Aloha,
As a resident of the Big Island, I wish to see the Ka’ū coast preserved from development in perpetuity and I support Ala Kahakai Trail Association as the initial land steward at Kiolaka’a. Kiolaka’a is a sacred historical site and also home to endangered dryland ecosystems. Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition.

Mahalo nui loa,
Kim Miller
PO Box 194
Volcano, HI  96785
808-985-9392
I am writing in support of the Legacy Land conservation purchase of the Kiolaka'a lands in Kau. The lands serve as important recreational, camping and fishing areas not only for the Kau community, but also for outside communities. That non-Kau families would drive so far to camp here shows how few there are left on the island to enjoy.

The area reminds me of what Makena Beach on Maui in the 1960's used to be. During my teenage years there, we would spend many pleasant weekends camping there. That opportunity no longer exist due to the numerous hotels and private homes that have overtaken the area.

The areas also contain numerous cultural and historical sites along with one of the largest refuge caves on the island. I understand that some of these sites are being inadvertently damaged uncontrolled traffic. Marking of these sites and access management would help alleviate these problems.

Ala Kahakai is working with the community to create management plans to preserve and enhance the cultural, historical and recreation sites. Please help us preserve these important resource by approving the purchase of Kiolaka’a.

Thank you,

Randy Mochizuki
Naalehu resident
Aloha kakou,
As a resident of Ka’ū, I strongly support preserving the natural beauty of our coastline. The land at Kiolaka’a has many ancient and sacred historical sites as well as endangered dryland ecosystems. It is an important feeding site for the few remaining endangered ope'a in Ka'u, as observed by residents who fish and camp there. Preserving this stretch of Hawaii’s natural coastline makes good sense for future generations when one considers how little unspoiled undeveloped coast that remains in the State.

Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition.

Mahalo,
Linda Morgan
P.O. Box 377406
Ocean View, HI 96737
Mahalo to the BLNR taking the time to hear our voices regarding C2B Kiolaka’a

I am speaking out to share in the support to perpetuate the aina of Kiolaka’a

THIS BRINGS OUT LOTS OF EMTIONS

AS A CHILD LEARNING TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE OFF OF WHAT THIS AINA PROVIDED FOR

OUR OHANA HAS DEEP SEATED MEMORIES

AS KEIKI O KA AINA WE WERE TAUGHT THE MO'OLELO OF THIS AINA AND TO RESPECT,

TAKE CARE OF, AND CHERISH ALL FROM MAUKA TO MAKAI

KA’U IS A SPECIAL PLACE OF SURVIVAL

YOU NEVER LEFT HUNGRY IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT

BRINGS TO MEMORY TRADING FOOD FROM MAUKA FOR DRIED TAKO WITH UNCLE KAPU WHO

WOULD DRY IT ON A GLASS WALL ... GONE ARE THE DAYS BUT NOT THE MEMORIES

AS AN ADULT MY HUSBAN AND I SHARED ALL OF KA’U WITH OUR KAMALI’I AS WELL

WHAT STUNG MY HEART IS WHEN MY #2 SON CAME HOME AFTER RETIRING,

AND NATURALLY WANTED TO GO "HOME". ITS HOW OUR OHANA REFERS TO OUR MOKU O KA’U

WHAT HE FOUND BROKE HIS HEART

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN WAS HIS FIRST RESPONSE

AND HE SPENT TIME TRYING TO EXPLAINING TO HIS OHANA HIS EXPERIENCES GROWING UP HERE

VS JUST SHARING WITH THEM THE PHYSICAL PLACE THAT USED TO BE.

FOR THEM, THE PLACES HE TOLD STORIES ABOUT WAS NOT THE SAME AS THE STORIES HE HAD

SHARED. AS FOR HIM...... HE CAN ONLY HOLD HIS MEMORIES.

HE WILL HAVE TO BUILD NEW MEMORIES WITH HIS OHANA WITH WHAT REMAINS

THIS UNRAVELLING OF OUR CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL PLACES MUST STOP NOW WHILE WE

CAN STILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

PREVIOUSLY WE DID NOT HAVE THE KNOW HOW, UNITY OR THE POWER TO STOP THIS

DEVISTATION THAT HAS OCCURED.

BUT WITH YOUR KOKUA WE CAN BUILD AND MANAGE FROM HERE

AS A KUPUNA WHITH GREAT GRAND CHILDREN NOW........YES CHANGE IS

INEVIDABLE..........
BUT ITS HOW WE MANAGE IT, THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!

UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO!!!!!!!!!

MAHALO FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION TO MOVE THIS ACQUISITION FORWARD

AND FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF THIS AINA I ENCOURAGE YOU TO APPROVE C2B KIOLAKA’A

Sincerely,

Ka’ohi Mokuhali’i

Ka’ohi Mokuhali’i
KM Farm & Ranch

PO Box 276
Na’alehu, Hi 96772
808-938-9040
Livestock Farming Accounting & Consult
kmfarmandranchsvc@gmail.com

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Aloha kakou,

>> As a resident of Kaʻū, I strongly support preserving the natural beauty of our coastline. The land at Kiolakaʻa has many ancient and sacred historical sites as well as endangered dryland ecosystems. Preserving this stretch of Hawaiʻi’s natural coastline makes good sense for future generations when one considers how little unspoiled undeveloped coast the remains in the State.

>> Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition.

Mahalo,
Deanna Navarro

Sent from my iPhone
Aloha,

My name is Pomaikai Keleopele Kini Olson and I’d like to reflect on some reasons why I support the Ala Kahakai Trail association and why I think it’s a good idea for them to purchase Kiolaka’a. I grew up here in Ka’u since I was an infant. My Grandfather always taught us to RESPECT, PROTECT And PRESERVE the Hawaiian lands. Slowly our Ka’u District is changing and New faces, New organizations and new Multimillionaires are moving in. The ‘Aina is a very sacred place for life to be created. All native plants, animal and Native Hawaiians that dwells on the ‘Aina is slowly fading away. Ka’u is one of the last places here on the Big Island where we can actually wind down and take a break from all the traffic and human activities that stop us from seeing the true beauty of the ‘Aina. You can feel the Mana, that mystical feeling that overwhelms our soul with so much unexplained feelings. It’s a power that’s been pulling us all together as a community to work together as one to save our district from being desecrated and developed like the rest of the island. I know a lot of you have felt that Mana and experienced the significance of why we PROTECT our district. If you are a Ka’u resident ask yourself why you are here listening in to this meeting. Ask yourself what can we do to protect the Ka’u district from desecration and multimillion dollar facilities and resorts. Ask yourself and really reflect on why Ka’u had remained so Preserved and Protected for hundreds of years. We as Hawaiians and as Locals in the community fought for everything we have today. All of the forest and historical sites still Remain today in Ka’u because we fought for it. We are doing what is right and making good choices for not only us here today but for all of our future generations yet to come. We live in a district that Holds so much evidence and so much beauty. Ka’u houses many Native Hawaiian Stories engraved in the Pohaku it houses burials and sacred sites that should remain protected forever. Everyday we find new evidence of our ancestors and discover new things about our culture. The Hawaiian culture has been so far damaged that we need to save every piece of evidence we can to continue to learn and recreate and share what was once so abundant. The Power of our Ancestors dwells in the land they live among us and watching everything we are doing. You can feel them walking beside you when you go pick opihi. You hear them talking to you when you go hunting in the forest. You feel their presents when you go fishing down by the cliffs. We know so little about our culture and our people. Everyday is a learning experience for Hawaiians. Ka’u is such a special place. Ka’u is a place where we can gather food, water and knowledge of the past. It’s where we can meditate and practice our Hawaiian cultural activities. My heart is sore watching the islands disappear from its natural state. The reason I am supporting the Ala Kahakai Trail Association in purchasing Kiolaka’a is because this organization has so much respect for this place. The people that run this organization knows the importance of preserving what needs to be saved and knows how to care for the native burial sites, caves, plants, animals and sacred sites. Alakahakai gives the most back to the ‘Aina with the best intentions. Ala Kahakai is all about PRESERVATION and RECREATION. I support everything they do for the community the Land and the Hawaiian People. I stand with Alakahakai on 100% and know deep in my heart that they will do what is right what is pono and will respect every aspect of life. Ka’u stand strong Hawaiians stand proud and remember to do your research and don’t be blind by the lies and false information going around about Alakahakai trail association. Stand as one, stand to protect and do what is right for the people! Aloha.
Pomaikai Olson
(808.443.6851)
95-6125 Kaulia Rd, Na’alehu, Hi, Ka’u
Pomaikaiolson@gmail.com
To: BLNR,

I HAVE LIVED IN KAU IN THE MARK TWAIN SUBDIVISION SINCE DECEMBER 2014.

THE REASON I BOUGHT LAND HERE WAS TO LIVE AND INJOY THE UNDEVELOPED AINA IN THIS AREA OF THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII.

THE VIEW THAT I AM FORTUNATE TO SEE EVERY DAY AND NIGHT IS WHERE THE DEVELOPERS ARE WANTING TO BUILD.

CURRENTLY THERE IS NO LIGHT POLLUTION AND ROADS IN THE KIOLAKA'A AREA.

It is untouched except for the local fisherman and family campers that visit the land.

I AM I FAVOR OF THE BLNR APPROVING THE GRANT AWARD TO PRESERVE THIS BEAUTIFUL AND CULTURALLY SENSITIVE LAND.

IN ADVANCE I GIVE THANKS FOR THE WISE DECISION TO PRESERVE THE KIOLAKA'A AREA.

MAHALO, ROBIN PAGENKOPP
PO BOX 819
NAALEHU, HI 96772
808.494.7387
As long-time residents of Ka'u, we are writing to express our strong support of the State Legacy Land Commission grant award for the preservation purchase of Kiolaka'a at Ka'alu'alu Bay, Kaʻū by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association. Please support our community's goal of protecting the pristine Ka'u coast by helping to fund the purchase of this property.

Mahalo,
Julie and Tom Pasquale
PO Box 743
Na'alehu HI 96772
808-929-9298
Aloha,

As a resident of the Big Island, I wish to see the Ka’ū coast preserved from development in perpetuity and I support Ala Kahakai Trail Association as the initial land steward at Kiolaka’a. Kiolaka’a is a sacred historical site and also home to endangered dryland ecosystems. Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition.

Mahalo nui loa,
Joan Patton

--
Joan Patton
Google Meets Link for all meetings https://meet.google.com/gfi-pjwe-ytd
Kindergarten Teacher
The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences
99-128 Old Volcano Rd.
Volcano, HI 96785
808.985.9800 (school)
858.367.9172 (my google voice number)
Aloha Chair,

I am a resident of Waiohinu and I am in support of the protection of the Ka'u coastline. I see this as an important piece of property in the history of this area and I find it extremely important to prevent development in this area. I am writing in good faith that through the approval of this grant Ala Kahakai Trail Association will work hard with the community to draft an appropriate management plan to preserve the native plant species and the cultural sites of this area. Thank you for taking the time to read my support.

Mahalo,

--

Bayli Payne
I support the preservation of Kiolaka'a ahupua'a
Aloha kākou,

As a resident of Ka’ū, I support preserving the natural beauty of our coastline. The land at Kiolaka’a has many ancient and sacred historical sites as well as endangered dryland ecosystems. Preserving this stretch of Hawaii’s natural coastline makes good sense for future generations when one considers how little unspoiled undeveloped coast the remains in the State. In addition, it is a favorite local spot for families to enjoy all that Ka’u has to offer. I also support Ala Kahakai Trail Association as the initial land steward at Kiolaka’a.

Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition. Thank you.

Signed sincerely,
Jacqueline Ramirez
Aloha,

We are a small, service-disabled, veteran-owned business located in Discovery Harbour, Hawaii engaged in research and development of new plant cultivars for sustainable production as crops or use in ex-situ conservation activities. Some of the species we have propagated for these purposes include Hawaiian endemics such as hō‘awa (*Pittosporum hosmeri*), ʻōhai (*Sesbania tomentosa*) and our official state flower, the native yellow hibiscus (*Hibiscus brackenridgei* ssp. *brackenridgei*), which is now critically endangered.

Our facility overlooks the coastline including the Ka’alu’alu Bay and we are very familiar with the incredible and unique array of cultural and natural resources, including endangered plant species like ʻōhai that exist in this area. It is one of the last largely intact dry forest ecosystems left in Hawaii. For these reasons we highly recommend a favorable decision on the proposed State Legacy Land Commission grant award for the preservation purchase of Kiolaka‘a at Ka’alu’alu Bay, Kaʻū by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association.

Sincerely,

Edward H. Rau, MS, LEHS
President

*Sustainable Bioresources, LLC*
PO Box 350
Naalehu, HI  96772-0350
USA

Phone: 808-339-7325
Mobile: 808-747-4838
Fax: 609-379-8531

E-mail: edrau@sustainablebioresources.com

Website: www.sustainablebioresources.com
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
April 23, 2021 Board meeting

RE: C. Division of Forestry and Wild Life  
April 17, 2021

2. A. Ke Ao Hālīʻi: Makaʻalae Lands
2. D. Ke Ao Hālīʻi: Mokae II Lands

Ke Ao Hālīʻi (KAH), Save Hāna Coast, has submitted two detailed grants which thoroughly describe agenda items; C.2.A and C.2.D in Hana. A Ke Ao Hālīʻi board member will be available at your April 23rd board meeting to answer any questions.

We support LLCP's decisions and honor the work of the BLNR and do not wish to add any unnecessary information, but do feel the over-all planning of these precious lands need further explanation.

KAH’s initial goal is to secure 150 contiguous acres of oceanfront land. Recognizing that the total value of these lands exceed $10M and would be difficult to fund as a single project, we chose to separate the 19 TMK parcels into affordable groupings, each valued under $4M. See Map

We began our funding efforts with the Mokae Parcel I (27 acres) which KAH deemed the most archeologically and culturally significant. Next our efforts turned to the Makaʻalae Parcel Group (30.34 acres). Also extremely important, but offers the added benefit of securing the opposite end of the 150 acres. The final steps are the acquisition of the Mokae II Parcel Group (32.34 acres) and Kākiʻo Parcel (7.02 acres).

To date;


Makaʻalae: LLCP FY21 grant ranked #1: BLNR agenda item C.2.A
Matching funds: Maui County Open Space- FY21 Special Purpose Revenue: I (5)

Mokae II: LLCP FY21 grant ranked #4: BLNR agenda item C.2.D
Matching funds: Maui County Open Space- FY21 Special Purpose Revenue: I (8)

Kākiʻo: No LLCP grant request for this project
Maui County Open Space- FY21 Special Purpose Revenue: I (8)

Makaʻalae Conservation Lands: Owner agrees to donate, once KAH has completed the purchase of all adjacent lands.

With the acquisitions of all these parcels, KAH will have accomplished our goal to secure 150 acres from Hamoa Beach to Waioka pond. Our Hāna community is exceedingly grateful for your support.

Mahalo,
Ke Ao Hālīʻi Board of Directors
Hāna, Maui overview of land Aquisitions by Ke Ao Hāliʻi

Mokae parcel I
State LLCP Grant Award FY19 $2.12M & Maui County Open Space Fund Award FY19 $726,000
Title transfer to Ke Ao Haliʻi March 2020

Mokae II parcel group
32.71 Acres State LLCP FY21 grant designation $1.86M & Maui County Open Space Fund FY21 Special Purpose Revenue, I (8) appropriated $1.9M

Kakiʻo parcel
Maui County Open Space Fund FY21 Special Purpose Revenue, I (8) Appropriated FY21: $200,000

Makaʻalae parcel group
30.34 Acres State LLCP FY20 / FY21 grant designation: $1.58M & Maui County Open Space Fund FY 21 Special Purpose Revenue, I(5) Appropriated $1.5M

Makaʻalae Conservation Lands
To be donated as part of overall purchase agreement: 53.59 acres valued at $1.74M

Part of Makaʻalae parcel group
LLCP grant designation FY20/FY21 & Maui County Open Space Fund FY 21 Special Purpose Revenue, I(5)
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<th>First &amp; last name (and moku / district)</th>
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<td>A. Kealoha Keohokāole</td>
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<td>Aaron Walker</td>
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<td>Oahu</td>
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Jeremy Vaeni
KAU
Jermy Uowolo
Hilo
Jessica Moe
Volcano so puna
Jim Beets
Hilo
Joanne Imamura
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Jodie R Rosam
Ka‘ū
John Hamill
KAU
John J. Fox
O'ahu
John L Perry
Upper Puna/Kau
John Souza
KAU
John Thomas Hylas
Naalehu (Kau)
Jolayne
Ka’u
Jolinda Fortunato
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Jolisa Masters
Kiolaka’a
Jolynn Grimes
Ka’u
Jonathan Weitz
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Joseph Anakalea III
Puna
Joseph Camara
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Juanita Alderdyce
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Kalimakahilani Southard
Koolauloa, Oahu

Kallie Barnes
Kaʻū

Kamaka Jingao
Koolaupoko

Kamakani Kaawa
KAU

Kamalei Kalehuawehe
Puna

Kamuela Plunkett
Waimea

Kane Thomas
Kaʻu

Kanoe Morishige
Kona

Kaʻōhi Mokuhalii
Kaʻu

Kaoionaliko Sullivan
Waiohinu

Kaʻōpualani Keohokālōle
Koʻolaupoko

Karen W. Shannon
Kaʻu

Kathryn Gleason
I live on the Mendocino Coast in California, but visit Kaʻu annually.

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Hilo
Lennon Kaawa-Koi
Ka‘ū
LeVanda Kainoa-Salvador
Kona
Lilia Merrin
Ko‘olau, Kaua‘i
Lina Kellam
Ocean View - grew up in Naalehu & Pahala
Lindsey Miller
Ka‘u
Linnea Heu
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Lono Grimes-Grace
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<td>Sarah Kawailima</td>
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Waianae

SARAH KEKELAOKALANI PULE

Kona Hema

Scott Mahoney

Kohala

Sean Walter

KAU

Sebastian Wells

North Kona

Shandon Tamondong

Ka’u

Shane Bloking

KAU

Shannon Nacoma Herrington

Puna

Shari Keohokālole

Puna

Sharra Dancel

Hilo, Hawai‘i

Shauna Kēhaunani Springer

Puna

Shawn Honu

palm bay, florida

Sherilyn Grace

Miloli‘i

Sherman quarles

Salt lake

Sheyanne mendez

Hilo
Sierra McDaniel
Puna

Springer Kaye
Rural South Hilo

Stadia Kapu
Kaʻū

Sterling Beair
Kalaʻe, Molokaʻi

Stetson Tayamen
Kona

Steven Walter
KAU

Support portection
KAU

Support the protection of this land
Kaʻu

Suzanne Brady
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Suzette Louis
Pahala

Sylvia Tayamen
Kona

Talan Rosam
Kaʻū

Tammie Evangelista
KAU

TammyLynn Ke
Kaʻu

Tayzsia Keohokālole
ʻEwa
Taz Rosam

Puna
Terrilee Kahealani Kelii Meeker

Kaʻū
Terry Eckland

Kaʻū
Thia LeBon

KAU
Tiana kaauamo

Kaʻū
Tina Eggert

Moku ʻo Illinois
tlaloc tokuda

North Kona
Travis Walter

KAU
Trice Davis

Kaʻū
Trinidad Marques

Kaʻū
Tyler

KAU
Tyrell mason

KAU
Tyson Anderson

Puna
Umi Kai

Kaimuki
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<td>Zailey Kaawa Kamimura</td>
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What moku (district) do you live in?

![Petition demographics (moku)](image)
Would you like to help with stewardship of this ʻāina if it is successfully protected and acquired? (If YES, please provide email above)

445 responses
Aloha kakou,

In 2009 my wife and I spent a night at Ka’alu’alu Bay with our sailboat Aluna. She, our sailboat that is, is of Polynesian decent and enjoyed the stay in the untouched natural inlet. The times where natural habitats can be willingly destroyed eyeing capital gains have passed, the dire consequences of such actions in the past are more than obvious today. Let’s have the courage to build a future for the common good of all, where the riches of the few have no longer the dominant say.

I therefore strongly urge you to support preserving the natural beauty of our coastline. The land at Kiolaka’a has many ancient and sacred historical sites as well as endangered dryland ecosystems. Preserving this stretch of Hawaii’s natural coastline is the right thing to do and makes good sense for future generations when one considers how little unspoiled undeveloped coast the remains in the State.
Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition. Thank you!

Naʻu me ke haʻa’ haʻa

Beat Rettenmund
S/V Aluna, a Wharram Tiki 38 with Polynesian Sails
alunaboat.wordpress.com
clanb.be
Aloha, To whom it may concern. I wish to state that I support agenda item c2b. I wish to see the ka'u coastline preserved. Free from development. I support ala kahakai trail association as the initial land steward.

Mahalo, Elenor Robinson, A Na'alehu Ka'u area resident for 30yrs.
Dear Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in support of the protection of Kaʻū’s Kiolakaʻa lands. I provided testimony for the first hearing and I have spent so much time since hoping that the decision made is pono. These lands truly need to be protected. I am writing again to show my support.

I am a public school teacher, and I was born and raised in Kaʻū. I live in Puna now because work has brought me here, but my heart is in Kaʻū. I want to tell you what this land in Kiolakaʻa means to me. This land is a symbol of one of the last freedoms of Hawaiʻi’s people and the lifeblood nurturing the health and vitality of our native plants and animals. To us, the people of Kaʻū, this land is our freedom. It is raw, natural beauty, gives us the space to feel free, to enjoy the free, clean air and water; the free, open space. Local people feel the weight of the wrongs of the past, and with every piece of open space that is lost to development, that pain is felt deeper. This place restores that sense of freedom, and for many of us, we visit these few remaining places to feel that freedom as a means of getting by, of merely just surviving in a world of pressure, loss, and futures that may not appear as bright as they once did in my younger days. We need Kiolakaʻa to be protected to give us strength to draw from, and hope to keep us moving forward, serving our communities, and nurturing future generations. Many of my earliest childhood memories of feeling deeply connected with place, with the natural beauty of Kaʻū, came from Kaʻaluʻalu Bay, and the land of Kiolakaʻa, and I want to continue to be able to show my daughters, ages 5 and 8, the same untouched, pristine natural beauty and heritage that I connected with when I was their age. My older daughter, Ariala (8), understands this land may be lost, and she took it upon herself to write this letter to you, BLNR members:
Dear Hi, State,

Please protect the land and choose to buy the land because it is the right thing to do.

Love, Aria

Save The Natives
She is one of many children of the people of Ka‘ū, and she understands the gravity of this decision. Children now only hear about environmental loss and degradation, disconnection of indigenous people from their native lands, injustice and abuse of power. They have so few stories that give them hope. Please give my daughters, and all the children of Ka‘ū the promise of enjoying the freedoms of the natural beauty of Kiolaka‘a. To these children, this is land they know and love, that they see connected to the hearts of their parents and their grandparents. To them, it is a source of pure, childhood joy and it needs our protection. When children have these places in their minds and in their hearts to draw from, they grow up to become the cultural and environmental stewards our islands desperately need. Please consider their needs, and their futures. I urge you to chose to protect Kiolaka‘a.

I also want to extend my deep mahalo to the many dedicated people who are committed to protecting our special, unique, and precious island home.

E mālama ʻia nā pono o ka ʻāina e na ʻōpio  
The traditions of the land are perpetuated by its youth

Mahalo nui,

Taz Rosam, Caitlin Kryss, Ariala and Aliya Rosam
April 21, 2021

State of Hawaiʻi
Board of Land and Natural Resources
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Re: SUPPORT for Agenda Item C2(B): ALA KAHAKAI TRAIL ASSOCIATION, $1,475,000, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 1,841.3 ACRES AT KAʻŪ, HAWAIʻI (KIOLAKAA), TAX MAP KEY NUMBERS: (3) 9-4-01:008:009, :016, :017, AND :023

Aloha Chair Case and Members of the Board,

I would like to express my sincere support for the acquisition of Kiolakaʻa in Kaʻū by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association.

My name is Jodie Rosam, and I am a resident of Kiolakaʻa Ahupuaʻa. My family and I live about a half-mile from the mauka boundary of the Kiolakaʻa parcel. First and foremost, I am the mother of two young boys who call Kiolakaʻa their backyard. Beyond that, I am an educator, an ecologist, a conservationist, a botanist, and a lover of all things Kaʻū.

The conservation values of Kiolakaʻa are too numerous to list. From rare and endangered plant species and an intact lowland dry forest ecosystem to anchialine pool complexes and coastal marine resources, Kiolakaʻa has a bit of it all. The archaeology that blankets the landscape unique to these undeveloped Kaʻū lands is so precious. Individually, each conservation value within this ʻāina should warrant protection and the support of the Board and the community. Collectively, they should end the conversation here.

Speaking from a conservation standpoint, habitat fragmentation and loss are the two most devastating effects on both species and landscape scale conservation. To interject development into an otherwise continuous and intact (protected) coastal and lowland landscape essentially negates the benefit of the preservation of ecosystems present on the adjacent lands. The ahupuaʻa in Kaʻū are intertwined and interconnected, and the plant people within them rely on each other - much like humans - for support (in this case, genetic diversity and sources of seeds) during times of drought or fire. Furthermore, Kiolakaʻa is home to rare, threatened, and endangered plant species, as well as a critical habitat for the future re-introduction of previously extirpated species. It is a piko of Kaʻū's lowland dry forests and commands the preservation that it so humbly deserves.

It is unfathomable to me that even for an instant there could be a debate on whether or not to preserve this ʻāina and protect it from development in perpetuity. Not acquiring this
property simultaneously opens up an opportunity for development, for subdivision, and raises the threat level of destruction exponentially. It is no secret that this area is under development threat. In fact, in only the past two weeks, another 260 acre parcel (already subdivided into 11 lots) just across the street from the mauka portion of the Kiolaka’a property was listed for sale for 2.4 million dollars. Please do not forget that this area of Ka‘ū was inhabited by ali‘i, konohiki, maka‘āinana, and home to many ‘ohana. I will not go into detail about the cultural/historic sites and values within this property here, as I am confident the Board is aware of what is at stake. Without a proper archaeological inventory survey of this area, and proper preservation plans set in place, the tangible history written across the ‘āina will be destroyed. We cannot gamble with that. We cannot risk losing this opportunity and assuming Kiolaka’a will not get developed just because these 1,840 acres haven’t yet. Because it will. Properties in this area are being purchased, cleared, and developed quicker than they have ever been in recent history. We are lucky that kūpuna have stood up for what is right and kept our coastlines and lowlands wild and free, and I am grateful to them for the opportunity to stand up for the same. And with the unprecedented growth in the local real estate market, the time to make movements is now.

Fundamentally, the statements of support and opposition both continue to reiterate the same objective, to Protect Kiolaka’a. Many statements continually reference keeping Ka‘ū’s lands out of the hands of outsiders. Let us not forget that Kiolaka’a is currently privately-owned by a developer who lives in Las Vegas. Were he to sell the subdivided lots, the new “land owners” would likely not be from Ka‘ū, as ocean front property in an otherwise undeveloped area with expansive, scenic views will be worth top shelf prices. As I read, re-read, and listen to testimonies, I am constantly reminded that the entire Ka‘ū community is fighting towards the same outcome: preservation of the ‘āina. We must keep that at the forefront of our minds, and not allow misinformation and personal disagreements to take precedence over the common goal.

I wholeheartedly believe that our community can come together from a deep place of love for the land and stand together using the tools available to Protect Kiolaka’a, with the constant reminder that: He ali‘i ka ‘aina, he kauwā ke kanaka.

Mahalo for the opportunity to express my testimony.

Jodie Rosam
808-987-8681
jodie.rosam@gmail.com
Sent from my Aloha kakou,
> As a resident of Ka‘ū, I strongly support preserving the natural beauty of our coastline. The land at Kiolaka’a has many ancient and sacred historical sites as well as endangered dryland ecosystems. Preserving this stretch of Hawaii’s natural coastline makes good sense for future generations when one considers how little unspoiled undeveloped coast the remains in the State.
> Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition. Thank you.
> Signed sincerely,
Steve and Ete’Rothenberg
Aloha,

Thank you for accepting my testimony to support the protection and acquisition of Kiolaka’a, Tax Map Key Nos: (3) 9-4-01:008:009, :016, :017, and :023, by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association. The Hawaii County Kaʻū Community Development Plan (KCDP) was passed in 2017 and uses every tool possible to limit development on the shore lines because of the unique ecosystems in the coastal areas of Kaʻū not found anywhere else.

The KCDP creation was a 10 year process in which trained volunteer facilitators went directly to community homes, held community summits, speakouts, and focused discussions and reached what the County Planning Department referred to as “maximum community engagement,” reaching approximately 15% of of the Kaʻū community, (which is more than other CDP’s).

The CDP clearly identifies where coastal development is appropriate and aligned with community objectives, and that development is not along the Kiolaka’a coast. The Hawaii County General Plan also clearly establishes to not develop other coastal areas until we’ve fully developed those that are already designated.

Finally, the KCDP steering members, which were made up of a land use manager, a developer, a professional community builder, an army reserve officer, 2 pastors, a rancher, and a farmer, stated, “‘this is really an economic issue, coastline is in many ways Kaʻū’s greatest economic asset so it is critical we protect it in the CDP”.

Please acknowledge and uphold the mandated will of the people of Kaʻū for the continued preservation and stewardship of the coastline and support the protection and acquisition of Kiolaka’a, Tax Map Key Nos: (3) 9-4-01:008:009, :016, :017, and :023, by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association.

Thank you,
Jennifer Ruggles
Aloha,

As a resident of the Big Island, I wish to see the Ka’ū coast preserved from development in perpetuity and I support Ala Kahakai Trail Association as the initial land steward at Kiolaka’a. Kiolaka’a is a sacred historical site and also home to endangered dryland ecosystems. Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition.

Mahalo nui loa,
Barbara Sarbin
94-6434 Palaoa Rd.
Na'alehu, HI 96772
Dear BLNR,

I am writing in support of agenda item C2B Kiolaka’a. In a time when native habitat is being threatened, it is important to have as many protected acres as possible. I have spent time in this area of Ka’u while volunteering with various organizations. It is a beautiful and wild stretch of land and should remain that way for future generations. I love the feeling of being away from it all when I visit the area. It is important for the community to have places that are accessible and protected so that they can view the precious natural and cultural resources of Ka’u.

Thank you for your time,
Dena Sedar
Kailua Kona, HI
Written testimony in an email to: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Aloha e Chair Suzanne Case and BLNR members

Subject: Agenda item 2.b. Support Grant funds for Kiolaka’a

ALA KAHAKAI TRAIL ASSOCIATION, $1,475,000, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 1,841.3 ACRES AT KA’Ū, HAWAI‘I (KIOLAKA’A), TAX MAP KEY NUMBERS: (3) 9-4-01:008:009, :016, :017, AND :023

My name is Deborah Ward, and as Chair of the Hawaii Island Group of Sierra Club, my testimony represents the support of over 900 members on the Big Island, some of whom are Native Hawaiian practitioners, hikers, scientists, recreational users and conservation activists. One of many services our club offers is hikes that are led by certified leaders to wild lands at no cost to the public. I am writing today to ask you to protect Kiolaka’a, coastal property in Ka’ū. Many of us have known and loved this area for many years. We feel very strongly that it is a resource that is too precious to lose to development. I have recently been appointed and confirmed as representative to the Hawaii County Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission (PONC) for District 5, and have had the opportunity to review the files on this proposal.

BLNR will be considering a recommendation by the State Legacy Land Conservation Commission to grant an award for the preservation of Kiolaka’a at Ka’alu’alu Bay by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) in April. An application was submitted to the State Legacy Land Commission in 2019 and out of twelve applications across the State, this Ka’ū property was ranked #2. Sierra Club members and hundreds of others worked hard to protect the lands that include “Road to the Sea”, prized by local fishers in Kahuku, and we believe this would be a significant and valuable addition to the protected natural landscape.

Protection of the Ka’ū coastline has been a long-standing goal of our community. With only a handful of privately owned properties at risk of development, this vision of protecting the entire Ka’ū coastline can be achieved. A preservation purchase would protect this beautiful stretch of coastline which has been threatened by development interests for many years. This and other properties have been targeted for large scale subdivisions. These developments would impact numerous cultural sites throughout the landscape as well as sensitive native plant habitat, open space and public access. As part of Sierra Club’s commitment to community-based stewardship and management, we are willing to work with the community to create a management plan for the land. The management plan will address elements such as public access, education and resource protection. This property is currently listed for sale and it is possible that either the existing owner or new owners could continue with development plans if we are unable to raise the funds.

Recently we took part in a virtual community discussion (2.16.21) to be sure that our community does have consensus about the high priority protection of our critical lands. John Replogle led off the discussion, reminiscing about kupuna Pele Hanoa, who pledged to protect this land in perpetuity. Brent Kakasako and Bog Agres facilitated the discussion.

The following is a list (but is not comprehensive) of Ka’u residents and supporters who took part in the community meeting: Leah Lani Rothbaum. Angelica Peneran, Reyna Ramolete Hayashi, Kaleo Paik, Fred

The outcome of the meeting was a consensus that the purchase of the land is of the highest importance, and that the specifics of management, pedestrian and vehicular access, kupuna access, and maintenance are all aspects of care that can and will be addressed in meetings with community members to follow. We agreed that if this land were to be developed for private holdings, significant cultural, archaeological and natural resources could be lost forever.

For this reason, we believe that the Legacy Land grant is in the best interest of the Ka’u community, the Hawaii Island Community, and the state as a whole.

Thank you for considering this testimony in support.

Deborah Ward, Chair, Hawaii Island Group, Sierra Club P.O. Bos 1137 Hilo HI 96720

cordylinecolor@gmail.com
Aloha Kakou,
As a resident of the Big Island, I wish to see the Ka’ū coast preserved from development in perpetuity and I support Ala Kahakai Trail Association as the initial land steward at Kiolaka’a. Kiolaka’a is a sacred historical site and also home to endangered dryland ecosystems. Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition. Please do not allow upscale housing development in this rare remaining pristine coastal area of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa,
Xanthe Smith
PO Box 1049
Volcano, HI 96785
To whom it may concern

While I have only lived in Ka‘ū for the past year, I have grown to deeply care for the untouched lands found here. This area is a treasure and it would be a shame to lose it to a subdivision. I support the Kiolaka‘a property being protected by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association. I hope you will consider my voice along with countless others in keeping this area protected for years to come.

Sincerely,
Brittany Suarez

Sent from ProtonMail Mobile
April 22, 2021

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(2)(B) Approve Grant Awards from available funds in the Land Conservation Fund, as requested in applications to the Fiscal Year 2021 Legacy Land Conservation Program and as recommended by The Legacy Land Conservation Commission, for the Acquisition of Interests and Rights in Parcels of Land having value as a resource to the State, for:

Ala Kahakai Trail Association, $1,475,000, for the acquisition of approximately 1,841.3 acres at Kaʻū, Hawai‘i (Kiolaka’a), Tax Map Key Numbers (3) 9-4-001:008:009, :016, :017 and :023

Aloha Chair Case and Members of the Board,

The Trust for Public Land is a non-profit land conservation organization and our mission is to protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. For over 42 years we’ve worked to protect over 56,000 acres and 43 special places throughout Hawai‘i. Our Aloha ‘Āina Program protects lands that are culturally and historically important to Native Hawaiian communities and returns these lands to Native Hawaiian organizations for community and cultural stewardship. Our Sustainable Hawai‘i Program conserves lands that support local food production, our forests and their native species, and clean water sources with the goal of improving Hawai‘i’s self-sufficiency and food security.

The Trust for Public Land (“TPL”) has been working with Kaʻū community organizations, residents, lineal descendants, and the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (“the Association”) to purchase and protect Kiolaka’a. The Kaʻū community has been working for years to permanently preserve its beloved 80 mile coast to honor Kaʻū’s ancestors and allow all current and future generations to be nourished by these coastal lands. Kiolaka’a is part of a landscape level effort to protect the Kaʻū coast. In 2019, we helped to protect Waikapuna with County and State funds and Kāwala which is permanently restricted to agriculture and cultural preservation through a privately funded conservation easement. We are currently working to conserve Kaunāmano with State and County funding and Manāka’a through a privately funded conservation easement. Combined, these projects protect a 6,600 acre cultural and natural landscape, connected by over 6 miles of the Ala Kahakai Trail.

Kiolaka’a is an undeveloped 1,841 acre property home to treasured natural and cultural resources including portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement, the Lua Nunu cave system and the most extensive refuge cave on Hawai‘i Island, heiau, habitation sites, an intact native dryland forest, an extensive trail network, miles of dry stack rock walls, native coastal plants, the Kapenako fresh water spring, a complex of six anchialine ponds teeming with two varieties of ‘ōpae ‘ula, and
the eastern shoreline of Kaʻaluʻalu Bay, a popular spot for fishing, diving, surfing, and camping. In the 1800s, the area was used for ranching starting with Kaʻaluʻalu Ranch owned by Princess Ruth Keʻelikōlani. Today, a portion of the property is licensed to Triple LLL Ranch and MJ Ranch for cattle grazing. Protecting these historic ranch lands would help Kaʻū perpetuate its paniolo history and continue ranching livelihoods and jobs.

In September 2019, the Legacy Land Conservation Commission ranked Kiolakaʻa number 2 for fiscal year 2021 funding. In Sept 2020, the County PONC Commission also ranked Kiolakaʻa number 2 for funding. Each year, an extremely competitive pool of worthy and inspiring conservation projects vied for the limited funds. The Legacy Land Conservation Commission’s high ranking of Kiolakaʻa in both years speaks to the breadth of its rare and precious natural and cultural resources not found anywhere else in Hawaiʻi.

On January 22, 2021, the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) deferred a decision to approve grant award funding for Kiolakaʻa because several community members testified in opposition to the project. BLNR asked the Ala Kahakai Trail Association to engage the community further and “to talk to each other pretty seriously and try to sort this out in a way that gets as much agreement as possible.”

Since the BLNR meeting, the Ala Kahakai Trail Association has conducted extensive and inclusive community engagement and outreach to address questions and concerns raised at the BLNR meeting and build as much consensus with the community as possible. TPL has supported the Association in its broad community engagement efforts. The Association humbly and sincerely reached out to individuals who testified in opposition, apologizing for any missteps and inviting them to meet and talk story. Unfortunately, some of those individuals declined to meet, and we respect their decision. For those people who responded and had one-on-one conversations with the Association, the Association was able to address misunderstandings and reservations, and these community members had a change of heart and are now either supporters or no longer opposed. This brought us hope that when we can come together face to face, mihi, connect, talk, and exchange stories, we often find that we have shared values and a shared vision.

The Ala Kahakai Trail Association scheduled dozens of phone, zoom and in-person meetings with community members and hosted two community meetings facilitated by an independent facilitator and advertised widely to the Kaʻū community. The first was attended by over 60 people and the second was attended by over 40 people. The Association presented three times to the Hawaiian Civic Club of Kaʻū; presented at the Hawaiʻi Island Burial Council meeting; presented at the Na Ala Hele Advisory Council meeting; met with members of the Aha Moku Council of Kaʻū including individuals who were opposed; presented at the Wiliwili Tree Festival; and set up a regular booth to talk story and engage with community members at the local Farmer’s Market in Naʻalehu.

Through this community engagement effort, the Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land confirmed overwhelming community support to protect the Kaʻū coastline (including iwi kūpuna, cultural sites, and sensitive ecosystems) from development, including broad support of the Association’s efforts to protect and acquire Kiolakaʻa. The Association and TPL found that, while there may be varying opinions about issues such as the extent, type and details
of managed public access (pedestrian vs vehicular, cultural vs recreational, etc.), the need to secure public funding to protect the land from development now is the community’s priority and outweighs future management issues, which can and will be resolved through a community management planning process. The community also expressed that, if the Association is successful in protecting Kiolaka’a, they want to be included as an integral part of the Association’s community management planning process and stewardship efforts.

The process of land conservation is complex. It is an imperfect process. In our experience, in every project where a community wants to protect their ‘āina from development and preserve land, a decision needs to be made about who will own and take title to the land. Ownership is a western concept. Ownership is not aligned with Hawaiian values of kuleana and mālama ‘āina. TPL does our best to navigate western legal structures and bureaucracy to partner with communities to protect ‘āina. The question of which entity’s name is going to go on the deed is by far the most challenging issue in every community we work in. The National Park Service, the State, and the County declined the kuleana of ownership. It was never Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s goal to “own” land. The Association took on this kuleana reluctantly, and as a last resort. The Association has shared that they are committed to holding this space so that the community can step forward, lead and steward. Ownership is not the goal, but preventing development is, as is returning the land to community stewardship.

The Trust for Public Land supports place-based and community-driven natural and cultural resource management and believes that communities who have kuleana (responsibility) and pilina (relationship) to place have a right to determine how to best manage, protect and sustain their oceans, lands and lifeways. Some community members have shared that they do not trust Ala Kahakai Trail Association will live up to the kuleana of community driven, community based stewardship. The Association has listened to those concerns and reservations and to that end has made several commitments to the Kaʻū community if it is successful in protecting Kiolaka’a:

1. An inclusive community management planning process for Kiolaka’a which will likely be facilitated and drafted by an independent planning consultant hired by the County of Hawai’i who will hold the Conservation Easement
2. Inviting Kaʻū descendants, residents, non-profits, community groups, ranchers, and anyone who has a relationship to Kiolaka’a to participate in the community management planning process
3. Inviting Kaʻū descendants, residents, and organizations to partner on stewardship projects for Kiolaka’a and/or participate on the Stewardship Committee
4. Adding additional board members that are Kaʻū residents
5. Hosting quarterly community meetings to keep the Kaʻū community updated about its land protection efforts
6. If in the future, if a Kaʻū nonprofit has the capacity to carry the kuleana of owning these lands, meets State and County requirements, and the community supports this, the Association is open to working with that nonprofit to request BLNR and County approval to transfer the deed

We are hopeful that these commitments chart a path forward with the community leading. The Association is completely open to the Board including all of these commitments as conditions in
The Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s previous land protection efforts demonstrate their commitment to community-driven management and stewardship. For example, after closing Waikapuna, the Association formed a Kaʻū Stewardship Committee of eight Kaʻū residents and descendants to lead community management planning and stewardship (Shalan Crysdale, Nohealani Ka‘awa, Michelle Galimba, Ka‘ohi Mokuhalii‘i, Jodie Rosam, Megan Lamson, Pelehonuamea Harman and Leilani Rodrigues). Interim management of Waikapuna is guided by this Kaʻū-based Stewardship Committee. To plan for the long-term management of Waikapuna, the County is in the process of hiring a professional planning consultant, to develop a comprehensive and inclusive community management plan in consultation with the broader community where everyone can participate and have a voice.

On March 31, 2021, the Legacy Land Conservation Commission reconvened to review and reconsider their Commission recommendation of Kiolaka’a for grant funding and consider both community support for and against the project. After 5 hours of testimony and thoughtful deliberation, the Commission voted (7 in favor 1 opposed) to reconfirm their recommendation and number 2 ranking for a Grant Award to the Ala Kahakai Trail Association to protect and acquire Kiolaka’a. The Commission included a condition that the Association make all reasonable efforts to include Kaʻū based non-profit organizations and associations, including but not limited to the following organizations, in development of a community-based management plan for the lands at Kiolaka’a: The Kaʻū Advisory Council, The Kaʻū Hawaiian Civic Club, The Kaʻū Multicultural Society, The Kaʻū Kuleana, and the Pele Defense Fund.

With the Ala Kahakai Trail Association as the proposed future owner and steward of Kiolaka’a, there is new potential for community-based management. Local communities with relationships to place are in the best position to vision for the future management and stewardship of their waters, lands, and cultural and natural resources, and protect them for future generations. Protecting Kiolaka’a cannot happen without active participation and stewardship by the entire Kaʻū community.

We have attached 39 letters of support and testimony from Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s partners who support the protection and acquisition of Kiolaka’a including: Ka ʻOhana O Honu‘apo, Ho`omalu Kaʻū, The Nature Conservancy, Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund, The Mary Kawena Puku‘i Cultural Preservation Society, Makahanaloa Fishing Association, Sierra Club, Hui Aloha Kīholo, E Mau Na Ala Hele, Huliauapa’a, ʻOhana Keohokālole, The Cave Conservancy, MJ Ranch, Tripple LLL Ranch, Kuahiwi Ranch, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs among others. The Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s Kaʻū Stewardship Committee is also submitting over 670 signatures from community members who support the purchase and protection of Kiolaka’a.

Kiolaka’a continues to face acute threats of development as this pandemic has ushered in new waves of investors and developers hungry to acquire property in Hawai‘i. If BLNR approves this grant award, Kiolaka’a will have secured both State and County funding, and we will be in a strong position to negotiate an agreement with the landowner to sell the property for conservation.

The Board has a tremendous opportunity to protect and preserve Kiolaka’a where natural
and cultural resources will be stewarded by the Kaʻū community. The Legacy Land Conservation Program not only conserves precious cultural and natural resources, but plays a critical role in diversifying our economy, supporting jobs in conservation and agriculture and enhancing our food security, making Hawaiʻi more resilient in future economic downturns.

So many kūpuna in Kaʻū have fought for decades to protect this coastline for future generations. The Kaʻū community is so close to realizing its vision. With your help we can secure the future of this coastline forever. Please approve DOFAW’s request to approve the fiscal year 2021 Legacy Land Grant Award, as recommended by the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, to Ala Kahakai Trail Association to protect and acquire Kiolaka'a for community stewardship. Mahalo for your support.

Sincerely,

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi
Aloha 'Āina Project Manager
The Trust for Public Land

Enclosed:

- 39 Letters & Testimony in Support

1. Ka ‘Ohana O Honu‘apo
2. Ho’omalu Kaʻū
3. The Nature Conservancy
4. Hawaiʻi Wildlife Fund
5. The Mary Kawena Pūkuʻi Cultural Preservation Society
6. Makahanaloa Fishing Association
7. Sierra Club
8. Hui Aloha Kīholo
9. E Mau Na Ala Hele
10. Huluaaapa’a
11. ‘Ohana Keohokālole
12. The Cave Conservancy
13. MJ Ranch
14. Tripple LLL Ranch
15. Kuahiwi Ranch
16. Office of Hawaiian Affairs
17. Former Representative Richard Creagan
18. ‘Āina Akamu
19. Fred Meinecke
20. Kalaho‘ohie Mossman
21. Jodie Rosam
22. Corie Yanger & Andrew Christie
23. Patrick Conant
24. Gary & Deborah Johnson
25. Selah Levine
26. Cherie Felzer
27. John P. Kalua‘u
28. Angela Guidi & Soli Coleman
29. Kady Foster
30. Alex Wang
31. Kevin O'Connor, Bee Boys LLC
32. Ryan Williamson, Bee Boys LLC
33. Jeremy Vaeni & Carol Fong
34. Iria Carmen
35. Caitlin Kryss & Taz Rosam
36. Justin Lee
37. Justin Yeh
38. Allan Franco
39. Janice Glennie
21 April 2021

Re: 4/23/21 BLNR Meeting (re Kiolaka’a)

Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our support for agenda item C2B about Kiolaka’a, Ka‘ū.

Ka ‘Ohana O Honu‘apo is a community-based, non-profit organization whose mission is to: “To restore, care for and protect the natural and cultural resources within the Honu‘apo area. Utilizing the values of mālama ‘āina (care for the land), kūpono (honesty and integrity), and kuleana (duty and responsibility), we will work in community partnerships to preserve this area for future generations.”

Ka ‘Ohana has been actively working with the county, state, and community partners since our foundation in 2005 to help manage and improve the 230 acres now known as Honu‘apo Park. In 2019, we applied for and secured a tier 1 permit to restore the estuary at Honu‘apo and we began hosting community workdays to rebuild the loko i’a earlier this year. We understand that Ka’alu’alu Bay was also once a flourishing fishpond that provided sustenance for local residents. It is critical for places like this one to be protected from development and providing resources for our local community, as we have here at Honu‘apo over 15 years ago.

We, the undersigned Board members of Ka ‘Ohana, support the protection and acquisition of Kiolaka’a, Tax Map Keys: (3) 9-4-01:008:009, (3) 9-4-01:008:016, (3) 9-4-01:008:017, and (3) 9-4-01:008:023, by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA), to protect and preserve the ‘āina for future generations, and return these lands to our Ka‘ū community through community-based management and stewardship.

Protecting these lands would help fulfill the Ka‘ū community’s long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast. It's because of our kūpuna who fought long and hard for this vision that we are here today, with this incredible opportunity to secure another 1,840 acres along this special shoreline.
Ka ‘Ohana O Honu’apo supports the Trust for Public Lands and ATA efforts to protect and preserve the watershed, lands and forests that feed the Ka‘ū coastline and our coastal ecosystems. We sincerely appreciate your time, consideration and commitment to protecting Hawai‘i’s wahi pana for future generations, to perpetuating cultural practices, and to providing healthy ecosystems for native wildlife.

Our community is sustained by the natural resources that surround us, and we support this land acquisition at Kiolaka’a in order to preserve Ka‘ū’s natural and cultural resources for future generations and protect this region from development and land fragmentation.

Me ka mahalo (with gratitude) for your time and consideration,

From all the current Ka ‘Ohana O Honu’apo Board members:

- Kalāho‘ohie Mossman (President)
- Nohealani Ka‘awa (Vice President)
- Kenneth Sugai (Treasurer)
- Megan Lamson Leatherman (Secretary)
- Daniel Dierking (Director)
- Jodie Ray Rosam (Director)
August 29, 2019

The Trust for Public Land
c/o Reyna Ramolete Hayashi
1003 Bishop St., Suite 740
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts
to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka’a, TMKs: (3) 9-4-001:008; (3) 9-4-001:009;
(3) 9-4-001:017.

To whom it may concern,

Ho`omalu Ka`u is a community based 501(c)3 based in Na`alehu, Ka`u, Hawai`i Island. Our mission is to “perpetuate, protect and conserve the land, culture, knowledge and history of Ka`u and its people.” We are committed to protecting the archeological, cultural, and historical treasures of the Ka`u District as well as the pristine, undeveloped environmental ecosystems in Ka`u’s 922 square miles.

The Ka`u Community Development Plan makes it clear that this community supports the preservation of the 80 undeveloped miles of Ka`u coastline. Ho`omalu Ka`u strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s efforts to purchase and protect Kiolaka’a.

Kiolaka’a is a 1,836-acre property south of Waiohinu Town that includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka`alu`alu Bay, and portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system. The cave system features a fortress with an elevated defensive wall and 102 sleeping platforms, built during the wars with Kamehameha. Other cultural sites include heiau, habitation sites, petroglyphs, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. A network of trails lead to Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teeming with two varieties of ‘ōpae `ula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka`u's paniolo traditions.

The cultural and spiritual connections to places throughout Kiolaka’a are still important to Native Hawaiian and local families. This connection of nature and culture is inseparable, he pilina wehena `ole, and serves to link us to wahi pana (storied places) and Hawai`i’s past.

The Ka`u district retains the natural resources that supported thousands of people
for millennia, and it is still the land and sea bank that can sustain generations to come. Because this area has the seeds for future sustainability (agriculture, food, medicine, tools, building materials and spiritual connection) the preservation of this land and shoreline is vital.

We sometimes forget the value of unspoiled beauty, wildlife, solitude and spiritual renewal. Kiolaka‘a offer us all of these things. Its protection in perpetuity, is important for the people and the future of Hawai‘i nei.

Mahalo nui,

Wendy Scott-Vance,
President, Ho‘omalu Ka‘ū
August 29, 2019

The Trust for Public Land
c/o Reyna Ramolete Hayashi
1003 Bishop St., Suite 740
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka’a, TMKs: (3) 9-4-001:008; (3) 9-4-001:009; (3) 9-4-001:017.

The Nature Conservancy supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s efforts to purchase and protect Kiolaka’a in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i Island. Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present and future.

The property is below the village of Waiʻōhinu, and native seasonal mesic and dryland forest remnants found in the rough lava lands support stands of lama, wiliwili, alahe‘e, hao, ulei, naio, and the listed endangered kauila. Along the shoreline at Kaʻaluʻalu Bay a network of trails lead to Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teeming with two varieties of ‘ōpae ‘ula, and thickets of naupaka, milo, and ‘auhuhu at the water’s edge. The adjacent Kamilo section of the Kaʻū Forest Reserve in Waiʻōhinu contains the most diverse native coastal strand vegetation remaining on Hawai‘i Island.

Founded in 1951, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. TNC’s Hawai‘i Program has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai‘i. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 preserves and work in 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian islands.

TNC’s Kaʻū Forest Preserve is part of the largest and most intact expanse of native forest in the state and featuring closed-canopy koa and ‘ōhīʻa sheltering a lush understory of native uluhe and hāpuʻu tree ferns, rare plants and endangered forest birds. Also, our coastal Kamehame Beach Preserve is a critically important nesting site for the endangered hawksbill turtle and a refuge for the threatened green sea turtle whose survival depends upon undisturbed nesting sites and healthy coral reefs primarily on Hawaiʻi island.
Protecting these lands would fulfill the Kaʻū community’s long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate our rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for our community which still relies on subsistence fishing, farming, and gathering. Conserving this landscape will perpetuate cultural access for descendants and recreational access for travelers along the ancient trail allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Kaʻū’s ancestors.

Mahalo,
Shalan Crysdale
Director, Hawaiʻi Island Forest Program
The Nature Conservancy
(808) 443 5413 scrysdale@tnc.org
5 September 2019

Re: Letter in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka’a, TMKs: (3) 9-4-001:008; (3) 9-4-001:009; (3) 9-4-001:017.

To Whom It May Concern:

Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s efforts to purchase and protect Kiolaka’a in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i Island. Ala Kahakai Trail Association (AKTA)’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present and future.

Kiolaka’a is a 1,836-acre property south of Wai‘ōhinu Town that includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka‘alu‘alu Bay, and portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system. The cave system features a fortress with an elevated defensive wall and 102 sleeping platforms, built during the wars with Kamehameha. Other cultural sites include heiau, habitation sites, petroglyphs, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. A network of
trails lead to Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teeming with two varieties of ‘ōpae ʻula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Kaʻū's paniolo traditions.

Hawaiʻi Wildlife Fund (HWF) is a small nonprofit organization that has been working to conserve native species in Hawaiʻi since 1996. During that time, we have been involved in research, education, restoration and advocacy projects related to marine debris, Hawaiian sea turtles, community-based management, environmental education, anchialine pool restoration, and more. During this time, we have also recovered over 300 tons (600,000 lbs.) of marine debris from the coastlines of Hawaiʻi Island, Maui and Midway with the help of thousands of volunteers, and can attest first-hand to the growing problem of plastic pollution in and around the Hawaiian islands and the threat this poses to our native flora and fauna. We hope that this purchase by the Ala Kahakai Trails Association will both help protect native plant and animal species, and the archeological history (and continued cultural use) of the area now and into the future. We look forward to working more with the AKTA to expand the capacity of our coastal conservation organization (and other partners like The Nature Conservancy), with support from the Hawaiʻi Department of Land and Natural Resources and the County of Hawaiʻi’s Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Commission) to conserve the remote southern shores of Hawaiʻi Island.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Kaʻū community’s long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate our rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for our community which still relies on subsistence fishing, farming, and gathering. Conserving this landscape will perpetuate cultural access for descendants and recreational access for travelers along the ancient trail allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Kaʻū’s ancestors.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions about this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Megan R. Lamson, M.S.
President & Program Director
HWF - Hawaiʻi Island Program Director
megan@wildhawaii.org
(808) 217-5777
Aloha kakou,

My name is La'akea Suganuma, president of the Mary Kawena Puku'i Cultural Preservation Society and Mrs. Puku'i's eldest grandson. She was born on April 20, 1895 in Haniumalu, above Na'alehu and raised by her granddmoter, Nali'ipo'aimoku a kahuna la'au lapa'au, a medicinal expert and a kahuna pale keiki, a trained midwife. Kawena was chosen to learn from her grandmother and grew up with no children her own age to play with. She was always with her grandmother, who was born about 1830, so those she was always around, listened to and learned from were elders. After her grandmother passed away, her instruction continued, led by her mother, Pa'ahana and her aunts and uncles.

For those of you who aren't familiar with Kawena Puku'i, she was a true child o Ka'u who was determined to preserve the culture, language, dances, chants, songs, wisdom, history, legends, beliefs and traditions of her people. During her lifetime, she authored or co-authored over fifty books and scholarly papers and over a hundred songs and chants beginning with “Hawaiian Stories and Wise Sayings,” in 1923 to ‘Olelo No'eau in 1983. I shold clarify that it was her last work while she was alive. She passed away in 1986, but other works of hers have been published after that. Among her publications were the Hawaiian Dictionary in 1957, the Polynesian Family System of Ka'u, Native Planters, Songs (meles) of Old Ka'u. In addition, she translated the works of Kamakau, John Papa I'i, Kepelino and Malo. Her songs include “Ka'u Nui” and ‘Ke Ala A Ka Jeep” written at Uncle Willie Meinecke’s home in Waiohinu after a day of sharing her homeland with Eddie and Myrna Kamae. Songs composed with Maddy Lam, Irmgard Aluli, Kahauanu Lake are considered classics that will be favorites as long as Hawaiian music existsl. With all these accomplishments, my grandmothe was soft-spoken and humble, never pursuing recognition, awards or financial gain. She lived by all the Hawaiian values we admire and talk about today. In fact, I can hear her now, telling me, “Lawa kela! – That’s enough about me.”.

Her grandmother, Nali'ipo'aimoku was the first of her generation to receive a Christian burial. The many generations of our family before her were deposited in Kilauea, after midnight, their bones wrapped in red and black kapa accompanied by the proper prayers. Many, many generations, back into the dim mists of time, followed this procedure of those who considered Pele, an aumakua, an ancestral guardian, The Fire Clan of Ka'u

Raised by her from infancy, she instilled in me her love for the sands of her birth, that deep aloha that I have passed on to my children and them to theirs. Genealogy has always been very important to Hawaiians. While growing up and introducing
schoolmates to her, she could talk about their family and where they were from. Sometimes I recall her saying, “Oh, your family is from Ka'u and we are related.” I was surprised to hear someone at the last BLNR meeting speaking unkindly of genealogy. I’m sure their kupuna were saddened to hear such talk. Speaking of talk, I was taught that in the word is life, in the word is death. One must choose his words carefully, because once said, words take on life. You cannot retrieve them and there may be consequences for what one says.

One of the things my grandmother told me repeatedly while growing up was, “Of one ‘ohana, one family, are the people of Ka’u.” She said that to the western man, they go back one or two generations and that’s all. To Hawaiians, ‘ohana is ‘ohana, no matter where they are and extends back to the beginning of time.

There’s something different about those whose ancestry traces back to Ka’u, something I’d like to try to explain. It’s a strong bond of aloha and respect because of our ancestry. Like Kenneth Makuakane, the pastor at Kawaiaha’o Church. When we see each other, no matter how long it’s been, It's always a greeting of, “Aloha cuz” with a hug. The same with Sky Ishibashi, direct descendant of Kalaniopu’u, or Cy Bridges, noted kumu hula and genealogist in Hau‘ula whose ancestry includes Kuluwaimaka famous chanter from Ka’u, cousin of Nali‘ipo‘aimoku, both of whom traveled as part of Queen Emma’s court when summoned. We are also related through the chief of Kama‘oa, Lilikalani or Haililani and other ways. Always a “Howzit Cuz?” Or an old schoolmate, Ted Mokiao, who I might not see for twenty years or more, but when our paths cross, it’s a warm, “Aloha cousin” that’s exchanged. Or something I’ve experienced with a couple of friends I’ve known for many years. Like Umi Kai who started training in lua back in 1994 with me and who recently told me his grandparents were from Waiohinu or respected Kumu Hula and Hawaiian language teacher, Kimo Keaulana, now at Punahou School who also recently told me of his Ka’u ancestry. They are no longer friends. They are now family. I’ve met many, many people throughout my life, whose ancestry goes back to Ka’u. There is a different feeling of respect and aloha, unlike any other place in Hawai‘i.

Our family lived in every part of Ka’u. I previously submitted the English translation of an old chant to the BLNR, composed in the early 1800’s, Ka-lawai’a-hōlona-i-ke-kai-a-Manāka’a. It's about my grandmother’s grandfather, Keli‘ikanaka‘oleoHaililani, his brother Kekipi and cousin Kawelu, three men from Waikapuna fishing at Manaka’a, one of the areas included in this acquisition. Not long after this chant was composed, Kawelu’s wife, Huli-o-ka-manomano, gave birth to baby girl. Years later, after she had grown up and married, she gave birth to a stillborn child. Kanaka‘ole took the child, placed her in a large calabash and held it up to catch the warmth of the Waikapuna sun and prayed that she would live. The baby stirred and cried, and Kanaka‘ole named her Hanau-maka-o-kalani (Kalani who was born from his mother’s eye), for an ‘aumakua who lived in the sea. This infant who was brought back to life, was the great grand aunt of Keoni Fox of the Alakahakai Trail Association.
In 1960, my grandmother brought me with her on a field trip to Hawai'i Island, while with the Bishop Museum to record elders who spoke about their lives, memories and experiences. In Kaʻu, we stayed at Uncle Willie Meinecke’s house in Waiohinu and visited with 74 year-old Uncle George Kawaha, who lived a few houses away. He told me stories about his father, Luhi, and his maternal grandfather, Kahoʻomana who was a lua man. On the 17th and 18th of August we went to Naʻalehu school where Kuʻumi Kin and Kalama Kahapeʻa were recorded. Kuʻumi’s wife invited us for dinner after the second day and I remember Kuʻumi being so happy that electric lights were installed and turned on in his new house just before we arrived. The next day we went to Kaʻaluʻalu to record a famous fisherman of Kaʻu, Kawelauokekapu Kuaʻana, the granduncle of Kawehi Ryder who I photographed with an old Brownie Hawkeye camera I borrowed from my mother. They are, as far as I know, the only pictures of him in existence. Two days ago, Kawehi was in Honolulu to meet with 91 year-old Riley Fujikawa who, in his youth, stayed with Kapu at Kaʻaluʻalu. He tells the story of going out in Kapu’s canoe to deep water, when Kapu grabbed a big stone in the canoe and his spear. Holding the stone to his chest, he sunk down to the bottom quickly and started poking his spear into a hole. Riley said he came up with a big heʻe (octopus) and when Kapu carried it ashore over his shoulder, the head was by his waist and the tentacles dragged on the sand behind him.

There is an old story about a Kaʻu chief who got greedy, taking more than his share of fish, leaving the families without fish. One day, the fishermen convinced the chief to go fishing with them because only he could insure a good catch. They paddled far from land, into the deep sea. As they caught fish, they loaded them all in the chief’s canoe. His paddlers jumped out so more fish could be thrown in his canoe. As the canoe started to take on water, the chief protested but was told, “Oh no great one, you deserve all we can catch.” The fishermen then turned their canoes toward home and paddled full speed. They landed at Kaʻaluʻalu and never looked back. The greedy chief was seen no more. Kaʻaluʻalu is part of this Kaʻu acquisition.

All these places and people have special meaning to our ʻohana. If the many generations of our family were standing here and were given the choices of development or preservation for the generations to come, I can say to this commission, without hesitation and with the prevailing belief of aloha ʻaina, that we fully support the effort of the Alakahakai Trail Association and the Trust for Public Lands to preserve and protect these lands of Kaʻu Nui….Kaʻu kua makaani. Majestic Kaʻu, Kaʻu of the windblown back.

Mahalo for your kind attention and consideration.
February, 4th, 2021

State of Hawaiʻi Board of Land and Natural Resources

The Trust for Public Land

Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village in Kaʻū, Hawaiʻi

The Makahanaloa Fishing Association strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land’s efforts to help the Kaʻū community purchase and protect, in perpetuity, Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala).

Makahanaloa Fishing Association represents over one hundred and twenty ‘ohana from Pepeʻekeo, Papaʻikou, and Honomu. Our access to traditional fishing areas has been threatened since the sugar plantations slow demise, ending in the 1990s. The Association is by every means seeking to grow and to protect our fishing community’s rights to provide food for their families and maintain the generational bond with our treasured shoreline areas. Many of our Association members travel to Kaʻū to fish and gather and are grateful to the community of Kaʻū for working to maintain and preserve these important shoreline sites.

Kiolaka’a is makai of Waiohinu Town and includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Kaʻaluʻalu Bay, portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. A network of trails lead to Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teeming with ‘ōpae ‘ula.

Manāka’a Fishing Village stands on the sea cliffs overlooking Waikapuna Bay, along with 22 precious cultural sites including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes. Over one mile of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the property and two ancient mauka-makai trails connect Naʻālehu with the coastline.

Personally, I have been fortunate to visit most of these precious and storied places with my ‘ohana. I spent time restoring Kapenako, camping at Kaʻaluʻalu, throwing net at Waikapuna, and standing in awe at the caves, lava tubes, and heiau that form the piko of this ‘āina. My heart breaks when I think of this area developed for people who would likely not have the appropriate respect for the history and abundance of this area.
Protecting these lands would fulfill the Kaʻū community’s long standing goal of protecting an irreplaceable and unique 80 mile coastline. Access to this coastline is important for our whole island community which still relies on subsistence fishing and gathering. Remember he iʻa kokekoke ka ka lawaiʻa, a fisherman always finds fish nearby, but we must ensure that our fundamental rights to gather from and mālama these special places is preserved for all time.

Mahalo me ka haʻa,

Blake McNaughton

Vice President
Makahanaloa Fishing Association
Makahanaloafishing@gmail.com
808-756-1054

Makahanaloa Fishing Association
27-1049 Old Mamalahoa Hwy Pepeʻekeo 96783
Ua ola no o kai i kai - Fishers live by their own efforts
ʻŌlelo Noʻeau (2838)
March 30, 2021

Aloha, Legacy Land Commissioners,

Subject: Support Grant funds for Kiolaka’a

My name is ----Deborah Ward, and as Chair of the Hawaii Island Group of Sierra Club, my testimony represents the support of over 800 members, some of whom are Native Hawaiian practitioners, hikers, scientists, recreational users and conservation activists. One of many services our club offers is hikes that are led by certified leaders to wild lands at no cost to the public. I am writing today to ask you to protect Kiokaka’a, coastal property in Ka’u. Many of us have known and loved this area for many years. We feel very strongly that it is a resource that is too precious to lose to development. I have recently been appointed and confirmed as representative to the Hawaii County Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission (PONC) for District 5, and have had the opportunity to review the files on this proposal.

BLNR will be considering a recommendation by the State Legacy Land Conservation Commission to grant an award for the preservation of Kiolaka’a at Ka’alu’alu Bay by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) in April. An application was submitted to the State Legacy Land Commission in 2019 and out of twelve applications across the State, this two Ka’u property was ranked #2. Sierra Club members and hundreds of others worked hard to protect the lands that include “Road to the Sea”, prized by local fishers in Kahuku, and we believe this would be a significant and valuable addition to the protected natural landscape.

Protection of the Ka’u coastline has been a long-standing goal of our community. With only a handful of privately owned properties at risk of development, this vision of protecting the entire Ka’u coastline can be achieved. A preservation purchase would protect this beautiful stretch of coastline which has been threatened by development interests for many years. This and other properties have been targeted for large scale subdivisions. These developments would impact numerous cultural sites throughout the landscape as well as sensitive native plant habitat, open space and public access. As part of Sierra Club’s commitment to community-based stewardship and management, we are willing to work with the community to create a management plan for the land. The management plan will address elements such as public access, education and resource protection. This property is currently listed for sale and it is possible that either the existing owner or new owners could continue with development plans if we are unable to raise the funds.

Recently we took part in a virtual community discussion (2.16.21) to be sure that our community does have consensus about the high priority protection of our critical lands. John Replogle led off the discussion, reminiscing about kupuna Pele Hanoa, who pledged to protect this land in perpetuity. Brent Kakasako and Bog Agres facilitated the discussion. The following is a list (but is not comprehensive) of Ka’u residents and supporters who took part in the community meeting: Leah Lani Rothbaum. Angelica Peneran, Reyna Ramolette Hayashi, Kaleo Paik, Fred Kanali Meinecke, Leilani Rodrigues, Jodie, Rosam, Annie Bosited, Pelehonouamea Suganuma, Keoni Fox, La’akea, Suganuma, Flora Krivak-Tetely, Scott Mahoney, Nanea Bekeart, Richard Taylor, Leivalyn Kaupu,
Michelle Galimba, Pua Yang, Ethan Souza, Kala Keahealani Wright, Otis Salmo, Lea Hong, Angelica Penaran, Pua Yang, Mel Yokysama, Brown Leiokeko’olani, Lynn Hamilton, Julia Neal, Carol Fong, Luana Fox, Leimana Damate, Melanie Seyler, Nohealani Ka’awa, Bob Martin, Aina Akamu, Kaimi Kaupiko, Wendy Vance, Jackson Bauer, Jon Oshima, Kaohi Mokuhalii, Rae, Donna Ambrose, Monte McComber, Katie Graham.

The outcome of the meeting was a consensus that the purchase of the land is of the highest importance, and that the specifics of management, pedestrian and vehicular access, kupuna access, and maintenance are all aspects of care that can and will be addressed in meetings with community members to follow. We agreed that if this land were to be developed for private holdings, significant cultural, archaeological and natural resources could be lost forever.

For this reason we believe that the Legacy Land grant is in the best interest of the Ka’u community, the Hawaii Island Community, and the state as a whole.

Thank you for considering this testimony in support.

Deborah Ward, Chair, Hawaii Island Group, Sierra Club
February 9th, 2021

State of Hawai‘i Board of Land and Natural Resources
The Trust for Public Land Ala Kahakai Trail Association
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov reyna.ramolete@tpl.org fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village in Ka‘u, Hawai‘i

Aloha mai kākou,

Hui Aloha Kīholo strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and The Trust for Public Land’s efforts to help the Ka‘u community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala).

Hui Aloha Kīholo is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose missions is to preserve, protect, and enhance the cultural and natural landscape of the Kīholo bay area through collaborative management and active community stewardship. Our stewardship of Kīholo bay, North Kona, Hawaii Island, through a Curatorship agreement with Hawaii Division of State Parks has resulted in over a decade of care of over 2,000 acres of coastline at a level far beyond what the State could have done on its own. The benefits to Kīholo’s cultural and natural resources, lineal descendants, families, community, visitors, and partners have been immense, and we gladly anticipate similar fruits of this upcoming ATA - TPL collaboration.

The following highlights the main reasons Hui Aloha Kīholo supports a conservation purchase and permanent protection of the makai lands of Kāwala:

• Enables the active stewardship of ancestral homelands by people of place and the continuation of a rich living Hawaiian culture. ATA’s Ka‘u Stewardship Committee is comprised entirely of Ka‘u residents to guide the stewardship Ka‘u lands through the development of a Community Management Plan in partnership with broader stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership.
• Connects public lands to its north and south, protecting important natural landscapes and oceanscapes which will only become more valuable and vulnerable into the future.
• Protects native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka‘alu‘alu Bay, portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail.
• Protects a rich cultural complex, including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes.
• Maintains access to the coastline, which is important for the Ka‘u community, which still relies heavily on subsistence fishing and gathering, as well as for the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka‘u’s ancestors.

It is fortunate, indeed, for our Hawai‘i nei to see the intersection of dedicated community and stewardship organizations, committed to pairing their strengths and carrying the kuleana (responsibility) of stewarding the lands and people of Kāwala makai. Hui Aloha Kīholo urges you to support the successful completion of this land acquisition and protection.

Mahalo nui loa,

Nahaku Kalei
Executive Director, Hui Aloha Kīholo
State of Hawai‘i
Board of Land and Natural Resources
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land
reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association
fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re:  Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka‘a and Manāka‘a Fishing Village in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i

E Mau Nā Ala Hele, a non-profit organization established in 1979 and dedicated to preserving the ancient and historic trails of Hawai‘i strongly supports the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) and The Trust for Public Land’s (TPL) efforts to help with the acquisition of a 1,841.3-acre parcel in Kiolaka‘a Ahupua‘a and a 348-acre parcel in Kāwala Ahupua‘a (also known as the Manāka‘a Fishing Village). Both areas are known for their rich cultural and natural resources that need long-term stewardship and protection.

Kiolaka‘a is makai of Waiohinu Town and includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka‘alu‘alu Bay, portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement, the Lua Nunu cave system, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. A network of trails lead to Kapanako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teeming with ‘ōpae ‘ula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, which perpetuates Ka‘ū’s long-standing paniolo traditions.

Manāka‘a Fishing Village is on the sea cliffs overlooking Waikapuna Bay, and includes twenty-two known cultural sites including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes. Over one mile of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the property and two ancient mauka-makai trails connect Na‘ālehu with the coastline.

ATA’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present
and future. ATA has a Kaʻū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Kaʻū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Kaʻū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Kaʻū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

As a Hawaiʻi Island-based trails advocacy group, E Mau Nā Ala Hele is certain that ATA with the support of TPL and the Kaʻū Stewardship Committee are well equipped and committed to the long-term protection and stewardship of these lands. Supporting the efforts of these groups will help ensure that these places, which are steeped in history and valued natural and cultural resources are properly cared for and protected.

Protection of these treasured places will help ensure the residents of Kaʻū and the people of Hawaiʻi can continue to interact with these places in a more sustainable manner. Sustainable stewardship is vital to maintain the natural beauty of Kaʻū so that this place may be enjoyed by current and more importantly future generations.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Kaʻū community’s long standing goal of protecting their beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate their rural lifestyle and cultural traditions and practices. Access to the coastline is important for their community which still relies on subsistence fishing and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Kaʻū’s lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Kaʻū’s ancestors.

Mahalo,

Kamuela Plunkett
President

On behalf of the Board of E Mau Nā Ala Hale:
Lokelani Brandt  Adele Salzman
Karen Clarkson  Barbara Schaeffer
Marcie Davis  Suze Shannon
Linda Gallano  Johnathan Tadross
August 29, 2019

The Trust for Public Land
c/o Reyna Ramolete Hayashi
1003 Bishop St., Suite 740
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka’a, TMKs: (3) 9-4-001:008; (3) 9-4-001:009; (3) 9-4-001:017.

Huliauapa’a strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land’s efforts to help the Ka‘ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka’a. Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present and future.

Protection of the Ka‘ū coastline has been a long standing goal of the community. Kiolaka’a is a 1,836-acre property south of Waiohinu Town that includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka‘alu‘alu Bay, and portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system. The cave system features a fortress with an elevated defensive wall and 102 sleeping platforms, built during the wars with Kamehameha. Other cultural sites include heiau, habitation sites, petroglyphs, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. A network of trails lead to Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teeming with two varieties of ‘ōpae ‘ula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka‘ū’s paniolo traditions.

Protecting Kiolaka’a from development would ensure continued access to this coastline for subsistence fishing and cattle ranching, cultural access for descendants, and recreational access for travelers along the ancient ala loa (Ala Kahakai Trail) so future generations can walk in the footsteps of their ancestors.

Huliauapa’a’s vision is wahi kupuna thriving through Hawaiian self-determination. Our mission is to grow Hawai‘i’s communities through culturally based dimensions of innovative learning, leadership development and collaborative networking in wahi kūpuna stewardship. We are a Native Hawaiian non-profit organization which seeks to educate haumāna and communities on the appropriate stewardship of wahi kūpuna. Huliauapa’a members, including resource managers, researchers, educators, cultural practitioners, and students, share a unifying commitment and belief: to protect, preserve, and perpetuate Hawai‘i’s cultural and natural resources through educational opportunities, community outreach, and advocacy. Our organization is intent on transforming Cultural Resource Management (CRM) in Hawai‘i, by integrating ‘Ōiwi perspectives into our every-day operations and activities and striving to give Hawaiians and kama‘āina a voice and a meaningful role in managing our own resources.
Huliauapa‘a provides educational programs, such as the Wahi Kūpuna Internship Program (WKIP), which is a summer internship for undergraduate students in the fields of Anthropology, Archaeology, Hawaiian Studies, and related fields. The program targets Native Hawaiian and kama‘aina students to increase their representation in Hawai‘i’s Cultural Resource Management (CRM) field by providing them cultural and scientific mentoring, professional development, education, and applied field experiences. The program aims to develop and support the next generation of cultural resource managers in Hawai‘i by offering a learning environment that bridges the worldviews of culture and science and by encouraging the interns to respect, appreciate, and utilize their cultural values, beliefs, and practices while conducting archaeological research. Kiolaka’a, Ka‘ū would serve to be an ideal learning environment and the perfect educational grounds for training our youth and communities in the tools of cultural resource management and provide a perfect setting to further connect our people to our ʻāina and wahi pana.

Huliauapa‘a ran our annual Wahi Kupuna Internship Program in Ka‘ū in 2014 and we were able to visit the Ka‘ū coast with Keoni Fox and his ‘ohana, and it was an inspirational experience for our students and staff. To see first hand that there are still intact cultural landscapes in our islands that provide a direct connection to our kūpuna was something that many of us have not experienced before. These types of settings are extremely important to preserve to teach our keiki and lāhui how our kūpuna were able to utilize the natural, cultural, and marine resources to live sustainably in these islands. There are many lessons that we can learn today from how our ancestors understood and utilized our unique environments, and Kiolaka’a is one of those cultural landscapes that should be preserved and protected for these special opportunities in the future.

Mahalo for your support,

Kelley L. Uyeoka
Executive Director
Huliauapa‘a
kelley@huliauapaa.org
www.huliauapaa.org
February 16, 2021

Board of Land and Natural Resources
Hawai‘i State Government

Re: Testimony in support of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) & Trust for Public Lands (TPL) efforts to protect and acquire Kiolakaʻa and Manākaʻa Fishing Village in Kaʻū, Hawaiʻi

Aloha mai kākou:

Our organization, ‘Ohana Keohokālole, is in full support of the efforts of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) and the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) to help the Kaʻū community acquire, manage and steward the lands named above as well as all other unprotected Kaʻū lands into perpetuity. The missions of the aforementioned organizations have been well documented in the Board’s own records, and our ‘Ohana, without reservation, applauds and respects their continuing work to protect these precious lands of Kaʻū for present and future generations.

‘Ohana Keohokālole is a federally-recognized Native Hawaiian Organization (NHO), and, as one of its main missions, was established in 1999 in response to ongoing issues of disturbance of iwi kūpuna (Native Hawaiian ancestral remains) to make room for housing developments, building of new and refurbishing of outdated hotels in Waikīkī and updating aging infrastructure in Honolulu proper. We have been recognized as both cultural and lineal claimants by the burial councils on Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi Island, and Maui. As a testament to the commitment of our organization together with several of our claimant families of Waikīkī, we designed and built a burial repository that sits on the corner of Kapahulu and Kalākaua Avenues in Waikīkī. This repository now houses the remains of kūpuna that have been unearthed in Waikīkī and other places around the moku, and still has space for future disturbances.

A second mission of our organization, is that of Hawaiian education by providing opportunities for our lāhui to study and learn the Hawaiian language, research and explore family connections by tracing one’s roots, leading field excursions to cultural sites, participating in and offering
training to kūpuna and students to further their knowledge of the Hawaiian heritage. We have provided seed money for development of curriculum development, scholarships for student and kūpuna travel for cultural exchange in Hawai‘i, the mainland, and overseas.

Given these introductions about us, *moʻokūʻauhau* is very important when our family speaks of Kaʻū. Our Kaʻū connections go back to High Chief Keawe-a-Heulu, ruler of Kaʻū after 1791, born at Paiahaʻa Bay. His heiau, Pāneʻe, which he built is located in Waiʻōhinu. Our familial ties to High Chiefess Ane Keohokālole, granddaughter of High Chief Keawe-a-Heulu and mother of our last King and Queen, underscores our ties to Kaʻū as she was owner of many parcels of land which eventually became the sugar plantations. Also, our kūpuna kāne, Keohokālole and his brother Manunu, owned 106 acres of land at Kiolakaʻa where they lived before the catastrophic earthquake of 1868. Many Hawaiians perished and were displaced from their lands because of this disaster.

The benefits of preservation of the Kiolakaʻa and Manākaʻa lands are many. Our organization believes the greatest benefits that can be derived from a unified, concerted community effort such as this one is 1) the assurance of access to the fishing areas as well as gathering rights along the coast; 2) the planting of food crops in the uplands to provide food security; and, 3) the educational opportunities for our lāhui and descendants to help manage, protect, and learn about the stewardship of all the cultural resources that are inherent in the landscape left by our kūpuna. We want our descendants to appreciate their inheritance.

A final comment. For us, the basic mark of our identity and connection to Kaʻū is the ʻāina. We are tied to Kaʻū through our kūpuna’s existence on their ʻāina when they occupied their lands. The metaphor of the *moʻo* in the word *moʻokūʻauhau* as defined by the kūpuna is that of a continuing succession of family – pedigree. No pronouncement of “outsidership” in any way removes our claims to Kaʻū which we, ʻOhana Keohokālole, make on the basis of our kūpuna who lived in Kaʻū.

All of you who are privileged to live in Kaʻū at this time cannot nor should you ignore the claims and comments of the descendants of those who occupied these lands before your arrival. No single organization “owns” Kaʻū. All of us are members of the Kaʻū family and community, regardless of where our families now reside. We are all obligated to and have the
urgent responsibility of protecting this ʻāina. Remember that our kūpuna are watching and listening and they expect us to *hana like* (work together). We must do it with Aloha and respect each other in this entire endeavor.

May Ke Akua give us wisdom to move forward *me ke kuʻikahi* (with unity).

Mary Kawena Pukuʻi in ʻŌlelo Noʻeau 1620, “Kaʻū lepo ʻulaʻula” “Kaʻū of the red earth” said of the natives of old Kaʻū, who were one vast family...” We are one vast family!

If you have questions or require clarification on any of the above, feel free to contact us at eek4@hawaii.edu.

ʻOhana Keohokālole, NHO

Emma Emalia Keohokālole
Family Representative
P O Box 565
Kāneʻohe, Hawaiʻi 96744
(808) 371-3398
e-m: eek4@hawaii.edu
State of Hawai‘i
Board of Land and Natural Resources
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s Grant
Application to Acquire and Protect Kiolaka’a (Item C1B) and Manāka’a Fishing Village (Item C1C) in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i

Aloha Madam Chair Suzanne Case and Board Members

My name is Tomislav Gracanin. As President of the Cave Conservancy of Hawaii (CCH), I represent a Ka‘u based conservation organization whose members respect and cherish the lava tube caves of Hawaii. We recognize that caves and all associated above ground properties should be protected and conserved for their geological, biological, archaeological, and cultural significance. Our members are cavers, hikers, scientists, and conservation activists.

BLNR is considering a recommendation by the State Legacy Land Conservation Commission to award a grant to the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) for the preservation of Kiolaka’a at Ka‘alu‘alu Bay and Manāka’a Fishing Village. An application was submitted to the State Legacy Land Commission in 2019 and out of twelve applications across the State, these two Ka‘u properties ranked in the top three.

I sent a letter of support to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission for consideration at its meeting of September 4 - 6, 2019, in which the CCH advocated for the preservation of the immensely important and significant archeological cave known as Lua Nun O Kamakalepo. At that time, we attached a detailed archeological report by the eminent archeologist, Prof. William J. Bonk. written in 1953. He stated the Lua Nunu o Kamakalepo is unique in many ways among caves of refuge, having two walls, one in each segment of the tube. He found that the cave dated from 1500 to 1800 AD, based on the fishhooks found. He explains that this period is correlated with “a cultural period that includes an increased population, the development of a more elaborate or complex political organization, a formalized pattern of warfare, and in general, a higher level of sociocultural integration.”

In addition to protecting this most important lava tube and refuge cave, we support ATA’s vision of protecting the entire Ka‘ū coastline. The ATA is a non-profit land conservation organization and as such meets the LLCP’s requirements for being awarded conservation grants. In addition, the Association has a track record of acquiring and conserving properties of note. The ATA has received three grant awards from the LLCP’s fund, namely:
34.6 acres in N. Kohala in 2012
2,317 acres at Waikapuna in 2017
1,363 acres Kaunamano in 2020.
In all cases the conservation easement is (or will be) held by other organizations. We have every confidence in the ability of the ATA to execute all the required steps and follow through with the acquisition of Kiolaka’a and to secure matching funding from PONC. The properties are currently privately owned and are slated for subdivision and sale by the current owners. This is of great concern to us as the only protection for the Lua Nunu o Kamakalepo cave is that fact that its location is not generally known, and also that there are no good roads to it. We understand that the plans of the owner, Mr. Ernest Moody, to subdivide Kiolaka’a are well advanced. He has already acquired a road variance and a water variance and an exemption from a historical survey from the State Historical Preservation Dept. It seems obvious to us that if the ATA is not able to acquire this land, it will be subdivided into 20 lots, each one about 80 acres in extent. Those lots will be zoned 20A so each one can be further subdivided into 20-acre lots. Once roads have been built and fences installed, the Lua Nunu o Kamakalepo will be easily accessible and will, in all likelihood, be looted, vandalized and essentially destroyed. The loss of this refuge cave will be incalculable.

We have read and heard some of the testimony of local Ka’u residents and are moved by their concerns. We understand that deeply rooted generational families have strong ties to the Aina; however, that alone will be insufficient to protect these parcels from being subdivided and sold by the current owners. We understand that ATA intends to collaborate with Ka’u families in the interests of long term stewardship of lands purchased.

As we see it, the best way to protect both the community’s interests and the future of the land would be to award a grant to the ATA so that it can, with a grant from PONC, purchase the parcels and give the County a conservation easement. The County of Hawai‘i has agreed to pay for a management plan to be drawn up by a Townscape. If that plan is based on input from members of the public, including generational families, then, we feel, the needs of the community and the public will be equitably balanced.

A preservation purchase would protect these spectacular lands, some of the most remote in Hawaii. The alternative - subdivision development – would assure this land will never again be enjoyed by present or future generations but would instead by crisscrossed with roads and fences and inhabited by hundreds without any connection to the Aina.

In short, as a Ka’u based conservation organization, CCH supports ATA’s efforts and we believe that with a grant from the LLCP, the land will be conserved for posterity and the community’s voices will be heard. It will be a win-win.

Our considered conclusion is that both Kiolaka’a and Manaka’a Fishing Village are too rich in Hawaiian heritage to remain in private ownership.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify on behalf of the CCH,

TOMISLAV GRACANIN
PRESIDENT OF THE CAVE CONSERVANCY OF HAWAI’I
April 01, 2020

The Trust for Public Land
c/o Reyna Ramolete Hayashi
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 740
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Conservation Purchase of Kiolaka'a, Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island
TMKs: (3) 9-4-001:008; (3) 9-4-001:009; (3) 9-4-001:017

Aloha Reyna,

I, Walter Andrade, and MJ Ranch support Ala Kahakai Trail Association and the Trust for Public Land's efforts to help our community purchase, protect, and steward the lands of Kiolaka'a.

Our family ranch has sub-licensed a mauka portion of this property, 316 acres, where we graze about 75 head of cattle, and we have also camped at Ka'alu'alu Bay over the years. Ka'ū's agricultural lands should be protected to support our local agricultural economy and self-sufficiency.

We look forward to working in partnership with Ala Kahakai Trail Association to ensure that our cattle ranching license continues and is complimentary to the goal of preserving the cultural and natural resources on the property. Protecting these lands would ensure that Ka'ū's rural character and paniolo traditions are preserved for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to preserve Kiolaka'a.

Mahalo,

Walter D. Andrade
MJ Ranch
PO Box 74
Na'alehu, Hawaii 96722
Roy A Loando
Triple LLL Ranch
P.O. Box 6746
Kamuela Hawaii 96743

To whom it may concern,

I, Roy A Loando, support Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s purchase of the Kiołakaa parcel. I am a rancher in Kau and presently lease a parcel in Kau for that purpose. I would like to see as much of the large land parcels in Kau preserved and protected and not be developed. If the Association is successful in receiving the funds to purchase the parcel, it will be the last piece to connect Ka Lae to Honoapu for the benefit of the people of Kau. I ask the Land Board to please vote in favor of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s funding request.

Sincerely,

Roy A Loando
January 21, 2021

State of Hawai‘i
Board of Land and Natural Resources
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Re: Testimony in Support of BLNR Agenda Item C(1)(B) & C(1)(C):
Legacy Land Grant Award to Ala Kahakai Trail Association: $1,475,000, for the
acquisition of approximately 1,841.3 acres at Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i (Kiolaka‘a) & $875,000, for
the acquisition of approximately 348 acres at Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i (Manāka‘a Fishing Village)

Aloha Chair Case and BLNR Members,

I would like to express my enthusiastic support for the Legacy Land Grant Award to Ala Kahakai
Trail Association to purchase and protect Kiolaka‘a & Manāka‘a Fishing Village.

The protection of these lands is in our community’s interest because it is one of the last
remaining pieces in securing the undeveloped coastline that is so highly valued by our
community, as expressed in the Ka‘ū Community Development Plan (CPD). I was a member of
the Ka‘ū CPD Steering Committee and protecting Kiolaka‘a & Manāka‘a advances the vision
and goals our community articulated:

“The Ka‘ū CDP should honor Ka‘ū’s unique rural lifestyle, its connection between people
and place, and its distinctive Hawaiian cultural heritage. It must plan for the future in
ways that: increase economic opportunities through a diverse, resilient, and sustainable
economy; and protect and provide reasonable access to natural and recreational
resources including the mauka forests, the coastline, open spaces, and park facilities
and programs.”

“Objective 2: Preserve prime and other viable agricultural lands and preserve and
enhance viewscapes that exemplify Ka‘ū’s rural character.”

“Objective 10: Encourage and enhance agriculture, ranching, and related economic
infrastructure.”

Keeping these lands in agriculture will support the rural economy in Ka‘ū and provide the land
base for agricultural production that supports the County and State of Hawai‘i. My family owns
and operates Kuahiwi Ranch and we currently graze approximately 200 head of beef cattle on
the Manāka‘a parcel. We have been ranching on this parcel for the last five years and its
protection would allow our lease to continue.

Kuahiwi Ranch specializes in local, free-range, grass-fed beef which contributes to our local
food security and self-sufficiency, which have become so critically important during this health
crisis. We market about 450,000 lbs of meat annually to grocery stores and restaurants
throughout Hawaii including: Whole Foods, Foodland, and Foodland Farms, Alan Wong’s, Town,
and Honolulu Burger Co. We also provide secure jobs to eleven employees and our work also
supports other food system jobs that enables our beef to get from ranch to table.
We strongly believe in the agricultural, open space, and cultural value of these lands. We are committed to working together as close partners with the Ala Kahakai Trail Association and the broader community so that our ranching operations can co-exist and compliment the preservation of both the cultural and natural resources on the property. Kiolaka’a & Manāka’a, as part of the Ka‘ū coastline, should be preserved for the people of the State and County of Hawai‘i. The pristine Ka‘ū coastline is a treasure that we can steward and a gift that we can pass on to future generations.

Mahalo,

Michelle Galimba

Michelle Galimba, VP
Kuahiwi Ranch
PO Box 24
Nā‘ālehu HI 96772
(808)430-4927
June 17, 2019

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi
Aloha ‘Āina Project Manager
The Trust for Public Land
1003 Bishop Street
Pauahi Tower, Suite 740
Honolulu, Hawai’i 96813

Re: Letter of Support for the Acquisition and Protection of Kaunāmano and Manāka’a Fishing Village of the Ka’ū Coast
Kaunāmano Ahupua’a, Ka’ū Moku, Hawai’i Mokupuni
Tax Map Keys: (3) 9-5-012:001; and, 9-5-011:001, 004, 005, 006

Aloha e Ms. Hayashi:

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is writing in support of the Trust for Public Land’s (TPL) efforts to acquire agricultural and conservation lands along the Ka’ū coast for the purposes of preservation and restoration. OHA understands that TPL is currently seeking funding for these acquisitions from the County of Hawai‘i Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources (PONC) Fund, the State of Hawai‘i Legacy Land Conservation Fund, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Thus, TPL will meet with the PONC Commission on July 8, as well as submit an application to the Legacy Land Conservation fund in July. OHA further understands that TPL is closely partnered with the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA),¹ who will primarily implement long-term stewardship of the area if acquisition is successful. OHA has previously provided support for similar TPL acquisitions in other areas along the Ka’ū coast. The current proposed acquisitions are aligned with a greater Ka’ū community effort to protect the entire 80 mile Ka’ū coast.

OHA is the constitutionally recognized body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians. As such, OHA’s mission is to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians by focusing our efforts on six strategic priorities: ‘āina (land and water), mo’omeheu (culture), ho’okahuaawaiwai (economic self-sufficiency), ho’ona‘auao (education), ea (governance), and mauli ola (health). By maintaining a connection to the past through the preservation of ‘āina, it is OHA’s hope that Native Hawaiians will participate in and benefit from responsible ‘āina

¹ Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) is a descendant led non-profit organization that provides community assistance for trail management and planning. The ATA helps ensure that the Ala Kahakai Trail is well-connected to the community and that Hawaiian values and principles are in place and practiced.
stewardship. Previously, OHA has supported many efforts throughout the state that promote the preservation of agricultural and conservation lands threatened by rezoning and unnecessary development. OHA values the protection of such prime lands as a potential vehicle for food self-sufficiency and a means for reconnecting people with the ‘āina through responsible stewardship.

The lands of Kaunāmano and Manāka’a contain innumerable cultural resources important to the preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian culture. This area of the Kaʻū coast contains many still-intact fishing villages, historic trails, pristine cultural sites, natural springs, burial sites, petroglyphs, lava tubes, and caves that together maintain a strong cultural landscape. Native Hawaiians today continue to use this area for traditional cultural practices and educational purposes. Moʻolelo of this area describe thriving fishing villages and the practice of lua (traditional Hawaiian martial art). Additionally, it is believed that the caves and underground lava tubes served as strategic spots to defend the area and conceal armies in times of war.

The Kaʻū coast is also home to a variety of endangered Hawaiian flora and fauna. 80% to 90% of the honuʻea (hawksbill sea turtle) nest along the Kaʻū coast. The honu (green sea turtles), ʻilihoʻo-kauaʻaua (Hawaiian monk seals), and koholā (humpback whales) depend on the clean waters off Kaunāmano. Native coastal plants blanket the shoreline, while pueo (Hawaiian short-eared owl), migratory birds, and native sea and shorebirds live along Kaunāmano’s rocky shorelines.

OHA understands and supports TPL’s and ATA’s efforts to protect the natural and cultural resources of Kaʻū for present and future generations. As both TPL and ATA aim to protect existing cultural resources and seek to reconnect people to the ʻāina through responsible stewardship, OHA views their overall efforts as being in concert with our own mission and strategic plan. OHA notes that the preservation of the parcels in question are further aligned with the October 2017 Kaʻū Community Development Plan which seeks to protect and enhance natural resources. TPL’s and ATA’s efforts to acquire these lands would effectively eliminate potential undesired development of the Kaʻū coast and help the Kaʻū community achieve their dream of one day protecting all of the Kaʻū coast.

Accordingly, OHA supports TPL’s and ATA’s efforts to acquire these lands and thereby enable our beneficiaries and the Kaʻū community to preserve, practice, and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture; mālama Kaʻū’s resources and sites; and, contribute to the future security and self-sufficiency of our islands. Should you have any questions, please contact OHA’s Lead Compliance Specialist, Kamakana C. Ferreira, at (808) 594-0227, or by email at kamakanaf@oha.org.

‘O wau iho nō me ka ‘oia ‘iʻo,

[Signature]

Kamanaʻopono M. Crabbe, Ph.D.
Ka Pouhana, Chief Executive Officer

KC:kf
June 27, 2019

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi
Aloha ‘Aina Project Manager
The Trust for Public Land
1003 Bishop Street
Pauahi Tower, Suite 740
Honolulu, Hawaii’i 96813

Re: Addendum to Letter of Support for the Acquisition and Protection of Kaunāamano and Manāka’a Fishing Village of the Kaʻū Coast
Kaunāamano Ahupua’a, Kaʻū Moku, Hawai‘i Mokupuni
Tax Map Keys: (3) 9-5-012; 001; 9-5-011; 001, 004, 005, 006; and, 9-4-001: 008, 009, 017

Aloha e Ms. Hayashi:

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers this addendum to its letter of June 17, 2019 in support of the Trust for Public Land’s (TPL) efforts to acquire agricultural and conservation lands along the Kaʻū coast for the purposes of preservation and restoration. This addendum is to clarify the applicability of the June 17 letter of support to include the contemplated acquisition of lands in Kiolak’a, as part of the storied cultural landscape of Kaʻū described in the previous letter, and whose protection from development and undesirable land uses would enable present and future generations of our beneficiaries to preserve, practice, and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture; mālama Kaʻū’s resources and sites; and, contribute to the future security and self-sufficiency of our islands.

Should you have any questions, please contact our Lead Compliance Specialist, Kamakana C. Ferreira, at (808) 594-0227, or by email at kamakanaf@oha.org.

‘O wau iho nō me ka ‘oia ‘i‘o,

[Signature]
Kamanaʻopono M. Crabbe, Ph.D.
Ka Pouhana, Chief Executive Officer

KC:kf
October 14, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Speaker of the House Scott K. Saiki
From: Representative Richard P. Creagan
Chair, House Committee on Agriculture

RE: Letter in Support of Legacy Land Conservation Funding to Protect and Acquire Kaunāmano, Kiolaka‘a, and Manāka‘a in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i

I am writing to express my strong support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s efforts to purchase and protect Kaunāmano, Kiolaka‘a, and Manāka‘a in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i Island. Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present and future.

Kaunāmano’s ancient fishing village of Pā‘ula includes the famous rock paved anchialine pool of Puhi‘ula cave. The property includes over four miles of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail and 444 archaeological sites including heiau, refuge caves and lava tubes with petroglyphs and pictographs, a lua training area, house sites, and burials. Kaunāmano provides extensive coastal habitat for native plants, seabirds and marine life including humpback whales and hawksbill and green sea turtles. The lush mauka pasture lands are leased by Kuahiwi Ranch for raising local, grass fed beef, supporting the local, agricultural economy.

Kiolaka‘a is a 1,836-acre property south of Waiohinu Town that includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka‘alu‘alu Bay, and portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system. The cave system features a fortress with an elevated defensive wall, built during the wars with Kamehameha. Other cultural sites include heiau, habitation sites, petroglyphs, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teems with ʻōpae ʻula. The mauka lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka‘ū’s paniolo traditions.

Manāka‘a’s breathtaking Maniania Pali rises over 200 feet providing protection for nesting sea birds and native coastal plants. Cultural resources include 22 documented sites such as heiau, burials, lava tube habitation sites, underground springs, over one mile of the Ala Kahakai...
National Historic Trail, two mauka-makai trails, and the remains of Manāka’a Fishing Village. These lands provide some of the best cattle grazing lands in Ka‘ū, leased by Kuahiwi Ranch.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Ka‘ū community’s long standing goal of protecting their beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate their rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for their community which still relies on subsistence fishing, farming, and gathering. Conserving this landscape will perpetuate cultural access for descendants and recreational access for travelers along the ancient trail allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka‘ū’s ancestors.

I wholeheartedly support the Legacy Land Conservation Commission’s recommendations to provide land acquisition funding for the conservation of Kaunāmano, Kiolaka’a, and Manāka’a.
My name is 'Āina Akamu and I was born and raised in Ka'ū. My mo'okū'auhau traces back to Kekūhaupi'o and Pine, and my 'ohana has lived in Ka'ū for 67 generations. My dad was a truck driver and electrician for Ka'ū Sugar, an alumni of Nā'ālehu Elementary and Ka'ū High School. My mom is pure Hawaiian from Kapa'au, North Kohala, born to parents who met, married and lived at the Hansen's Disease settlement at Kalaupapa; and worked at the Punalu'u Black Sands Restaurant and Pick and Pay at Nā'ālehu Shopping Center. I was primarily raised by my paternal grandmother, Mae Kalilinoeokalani Macomber Kapika Akamu, who spoke to me in Hawaiian, was part of the first group of Hawaiian Studies kupuna teaching in the Ka'ū schools in 1978, and passed on to me many Hawaiian traditions such as lā'au lapa'au, mea kanu, mea kaua, kapa, waiho'olu'u, hula, mele, lei making and other hana no'eau and sacred kuleana that I continue in my ‘ohana until today.

After attending Nā'ālehu Elementary school through grade 6, I attended boarding school and graduated from Kamehameha-Kapālama with an Honors Diploma, graduated Cum Laude with a B.A. in Linguistics and Theater from Dartmouth College with a focus on Hawaiian Grammar and Dialectology, a M.A. in Teaching from the University of Southern California with an emphasis on bilingual and social studies education, and a Teaching Certificate from the University of Hawai'i in Career & Technical Education with a specialization in Industrial Engineering Technology, Building & Construction, and Design and Drafting.

I currently teach Engineering, Construction, Culinary Arts, Agriculture, and Entrepreneurship, and I am the new Ag Program Director at Ka'ū High School. I am also a faculty member in the Hawaiian Studies Department at Hawai'i Community College in Hilo, where I Hawaiian Studies classes through the Early College program for Ka'ū High School students. I also chair the Education Committee and serve as Kākau 'Ōlelo (secretary & webmaster) for the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka'ū, am a member of Kauaha'ao Congregational Church which was built by my kupuna and where they rest today, and a community volunteer and land steward doing what I can to ensure the conservation and protection of our natural, cultural, and historical resources for the next 67 generations of my ‘ohana - in the same way my ‘ohana has preserved Ka'ū for me.

It is very uncomfortable for me to share all of this with you because I was raised to pa’a ka waha (shut the mouth), nānā ka maka (watch with the eyes), ho’olohe ka pepeiao (listen with the ears) and then hana ka lima (work the hands) because ma ka hana ka ‘ike (in the doing is the knowledge). I am not one to talk or write a lot, or get involved loudly with various community issues, but you can rest assured that at 5am when it is time to E ‘ala e, I will be there, with my gloves and boots, ready to work. I am someone who is more comfortable being quiet and unnoticed, but always there for others to listen with an open heart, to observe with a sense of makawalu (eight eyes), and then to do what I can to help.
I feel compelled to share this with you today because the issue of Kiolaka’a (and Waikapuna) has really taken a toll on members of our community. There has been a loss of trust, communication, and it feels like so many are fighting against each other although we all want the same thing - to preserve our precious wahi pana of Ka'ū. I honestly do not know what to do sometimes, because it feels like supporting the Ala Kahakai Trail Association means taking sides against my own family and members of my community. I honestly just want the land to be left alone, to be saved from any future development, and to be protected from the harm that humans do intentionally or not.

As a lineal and ancestral descendant of Kahula Kekūhaupi’o, who received from Kauikeaouli the Royal Patent for the kuleana of 349 acres of Palauhulu, who passed on that kuleana title to Kahula Keecomber, who passed that kuleana title on to Mae Macomber Akamu, who passed that kuleana title on to me, I stand with them today and every day. Of the hundreds of great-great-great grandchildren in my ‘ohana, I am the one who holds the palapala that Kahula once held, and was directly given the sacred kauoha and kuleana of protecting the iwi kupuna of my ‘ohana. I live on my ancestral lands in Ka'ū - and I look out over the Kiolaka’a property every day. My kuleana lands extend down to Ka’alu’alu road and borders the Kiolaka’a property. The current “landowner” of a portion of my own kuleana lands is preparing for future development, which is another fight I am preparing for in a spiritual manner. In my own ‘ohana, I know that my ancestors support any efforts to save these lands from any development.

As a member of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka'ū, I have done my best to bring forward any information to our club members and have shared all the relevant information on our website. Our club is currently 52 years old, we have monthly meetings, and our membership is open to all. We are a transparent Hawaiian community-based organization that has endured for many years and, through the pandemic, has managed the transition to Zoom meetings for our club. There are members of our club who oppose acquisition of Kiolaka’a by ATA, but still want these lands saved. We also have members who support ATA’s acquisition, and are willing to work with ATA and serve on their Stewardship committees, attend their meetings, and be a conduit of information to our community. It is challenging to stay neutral, but in the end, for me, it is not about a person or a group, but about saving these lands from future development.

Personally, I came to support ATA’s acquisition when I asked if they would return these lands to the Hawaiian Kingdom once it was reestablished and the military occupation of Hawai‘i ends. I was assured that if any Ka'ū non-profit could take over, they would gladly transfer the deed to another group’s care. Additionally, if the Hawaiian Kingdom was returned prior to that happening, the lands would be returned to the Hawaiian Kingdom and the Ka'ū representatives or konohiki would then take on that responsibility. To me, this gives me enough trust that I have worked with ATA, have attended their meetings, and as of yet, do not have any concerns about ATA developing the lands, or restricting any traditional and cultural uses of these lands.

I know there are still concerns. I will continue to do what I can to help bring information to my community, and to uphold the kuleana given to me by my kupunahine. I was raised to know that it is not my place to claim my rights to something, but rather that I have responsibility to uphold and to ensure that the rights of the lands are held in highest esteem.

He aliʻi ka ‘āina, he kauwā ke kanaka.  
Aloha, a koe no nā pua.  

ʻĀina Akamu
Ae, hoʻi! Aloha mai kākou pākahī ā pau!

Eia nēia, ʻo wau ʻo Fred Kalani Meinecke a no Waiʻōhinu mai mākou. A no ka pono o kēnei papahana, e kākau aku ana au i nā ʻōlelo ʻelua, ʻo ka mua no ka pono o nā kūpuna o kākou, a no ka lua no ka maopopo iā lākou o ka ʻōlelo hoʻokahi wale!

This rendering is from Fred Kalani Meinecke and we are from Waiʻōhinu. And for the propriety of this testimony, I will convey bilingually; first for our kūpuna who cannot be here, and secondly for those confined to a single language!

ʻO koʻu ʻiʻini nō e kākau iho nei ʻo ia nō e kākoʻo i kā ʻoukou hana nui, lōkihi a paʻupaʻu i mea e mālama i ka ʻāina o nā kūpuna o kākou. He mahalo nui iā ʻoukou no kā ʻoukou hoʻomanawanui i kēia hana koʻikoʻi! Maopopo loa nō hoʻi iaʻu! No ka mea aia wau ma Kona me Herb Kawainui Kāne mā i nā makahiki 1975-79 e hoʻāʻo nui e hoʻopakele iā "Ka Lae o ka Moa" ma Hōlualoa Kai mai ke kūkulu hōkele hou me hale hou! A i ka hopena, ua pōmaikaʻi i kā ke Kīaʻaina Ariyoshi i kūʻai mai i kēlā ʻāpana no ka Mokuʻāina ʻo Hawaiʻi e mālama a! No laila, hiki wale nō ka hopena lanakila i ka hākākā e mālama ʻāina!

My intent in writing this is to convey support of your long, difficult and exhausting task of protecting our ancestral lands! I very much know what it’s like and what it takes! For I was there in Kona with good friend Herb Kawainui Kāne and others in the mid-70’s to struggle to save the sacred religious complex, "Ka Lae o ka Moa," The Headland of the Warriors," from replacement by a Holiday Inn and housing development! And in the end, it was fortunate that then Governor Ariyoshi agreed to purchase the 15-acre site for the State to protect! So victorious outcomes can happen in land contention!

A ua poina wale iaʻu e haʻi mai i ke ʻano kūkaulani o Ka Lae o ka Moa no ka mea ua hōʻike ʻia mai ʻo Keolonāhihi, ke kaikamahine a ke Kahuna Nui Pāoa (= Pāʻao),
me kāna kāne nā mea kuhikuhi i kēlā kahua heiau i ke kenekulia ʻumikūmāhā!

And I’ve overlooked mentioning that the very sacredness of the religious site complex (five heiau, court of law, virgin aliʻi women’s sanctity, warriors’ training ground, sacred cadaver preparation site (incl. the imu for Kamehameha’s body to be defleshed) dates back to the founding in the 14th century by one Keolonāhihi, daughter of the High Priest, Pāoa (a.k.a. Pāʻoa) and her husband.

No Kaʻū, he poʻokela kona ʻano kahiko loa a kapu loa no nā hānauna aliʻi me nā hānauna kāhuna. A he nui loa nō nā mea kūhohonu, malū, palapala ʻole, a ʻike ʻole ānō! ʻO ia kahi kumu he paʻakikī kē hōʻike laulā ānō kē lilo loa nā kūpuna! He aha e hana aku ai?

In regard to Kaʻū, its antiquity and sanctity is foremost because of generations of paramount rulers and high priests. And yet much is deeply hidden, secretive, undocumented and not known today. It’s one of the reasons it’s difficult to widely inform today when so many (all?) of the kūpuna are gone forever! What are we to do?

-- Fred Kalani Meinecke
fmeineck@hawaii.edu
(808) 371-4233
February 28, 2021

Kalāho‘ohie Mossman
P.O. Box 43
Na‘alehu, Hi 96772

Reyna Ramolete Hayashi
The Trust for Public Land
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 740
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

Re: Support for Ala Kahakai Trail Association and the Trust for Public Land’s efforts to Purchase and Protect Manaka’a in Kāwala Ka‘ū and lands in Kiolaka’a, Ka‘ū.

Aloha,

Aloha, my name is Kalāho‘ohie Mosman and I am a resident of Wai‘ōhinu, Ka‘ū. I support The Trust for Public Land and ATA’s efforts to protect and purchase the Manaka’a and Kiolaka’a properties in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i. Protecting these lands would provide impactful community benefits: preserving beloved cultural and historic resources and an outdoor classroom for students to learn about the area and the Hawaiian traditions.

I had expressed concern at the last meeting considering this purchase because I felt there was not sufficient community engagement. Since that time ATA and the Trust for Public Lands have reached out and have held a community zoom meeting as well as spoke to individuals in our community directly. I am satisfied with this effort and feel that the community will be a part of the ongoing management of these lands in the future.

If these properties were to be sold to a private buyer it would mean the loss of significant cultural resources along the coastline. It could also have serious impacts on our coastal and marine resources. A resource that our community depends on to survive.

I envision this area being protected restored, and stewarded by the community for ‘āina-based education, Hawaiian cultural practices and creating a space where one can establish a connection to the environment.

Mahalo,

Kalāho‘ohie Mossman
Ka‘ū Resident
P.O. Box 43
Na‘alehu, Hi 96772
September 4, 2019

The Trust for Public Land
c/o Reyna Ramolete Hayashi
1003 Bishop St., Suite 740
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka’a, TMKs: (3) 9-4-001:008; (3) 9-4-001:009; (3) 9-4-001:017.

Jodie Rosam and family are in support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s efforts to purchase and protect Kiolaka’a in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i Island. Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present and future.

Kiolaka’a is a 1,836-acre property south of Waiohinu Town that includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka‘alu‘alu Bay, and portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system. The cave system features a fortress with an elevated defensive wall and 102 sleeping platforms, built during the wars with Kamehameha. Other cultural sites include heiau, habitation sites, petroglyphs, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. A network of trails lead to Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teeming with two varieties of ‘ōpae ‘ula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka‘ū’s paniolo traditions.

Our family owns nearly 50 acres in Kiolaka’a, just mauka of the property to which this letter is directed. We also own several parcels in the Green Sands subdivision, also in Kiolaka’a. Our family has been here for over 30 years, and we care deeply for these lands. As a restoration ecologist, conservationist, and teacher, I see the uniqueness of this land. Not only does it contain rare plant species, but it contains history. From battleground cave systems to ancient agricultural sites to veins of rare plants, this place is rich with significance.

As a mother of two young children, and an active member in our community and our keiki, I see the potential of this land for our future. Our family has a vision to restore old agricultural systems on our property and bring students from local schools to educate them on ancient agricultural techniques. We also plan to collect seeds from rare species and give seedlings to our community to restore these unique plant species. If this property were to become developed, a major source of dryland forest seeds would be lost. It is without question that ancient agricultural sites, burial sites, and cave systems would be destroyed as well. This land is special. It is sacred. And we fully support protection of Kiolaka’a.
Protecting these lands would fulfill the Ka‘ū community’s long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate our rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for our community which still relies on subsistence fishing, farming, and gathering. Conserving this landscape will perpetuate cultural access for descendants and recreational access for travelers along the ancient trail allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka‘ū’s ancestors.

Mahalo,
Jodie Rosam
Rosas, Ambrose, and Rosam Ohana
jodie.rosam@gmail.com
808-987-8681
February 16, 2021

State of Hawai‘i
Board of Land and Natural Resources
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land
reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association
fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i

Our family strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land’s efforts to help the Ka‘ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala). Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present and future. ATA has a Ka‘ū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Ka‘ū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Ka‘ū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Ka‘ū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

Kiolaka’a is makai of Waiohinu Town and includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka‘alu‘alu Bay, portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. A network of trails lead to Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teeming with ‘ōpae ‘ula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka‘ū’s paniolo traditions.

Manāka’a Fishing Village stands on the sea cliffs overlooking Waikapuna Bay, along with 22 precious cultural sites including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes. Over one mile of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the property and two ancient mauka-makai trails connect Na‘ālehu with the coastline.

Our family has lived near the boundary of Ka‘ū and Puna for almost 20 years and we have committed our lives to protecting and restoring natural resources particularly in Ka‘ū, mainly as employees working directly for the National Park Service or otherwise within Hawai‘i
Volcanoes National Park. Through our work, we have assisted The Nature Conservancy and various local groups in the district as well. Outside of work, we have surfed, played, fished, and contributed to mālama ‘āina efforts in the area for nearly two decades. We have been fortunate to have camped along the coast, learned about cultural features at the nearby site Puhi‘ula and celebrated weddings of friends and family at Kiolaka‘a and Honu‘apo. Many of our ‘ohana have important ties to these ahupua‘a whether through ancestral lineage or current land ownership.

We have seen how development can change the shape of the land and the connection to place. Protecting the Kaʻū coastline is important to us, to our family and friends who call it home, and to our children’s future. For the past few years, we have participated in a stewardship training called Hālau ‘Ōhi‘a, and we have learned from training and from huaka‘i about just a few of the numerous natural and cultural treasures held within Kaʻū. Our family’s mission is to raise our keiki to have a deep relationship with the places and people of where they live - not just their house and their neighborhood, but to know their moku, to enjoy and appreciate the coast, plants, and stories of place, old and new. Safeguarding and caring for the Kaʻū coastline allows everyone - including visitors, but especially the families who call Kaʻū and Hawai‘i Island home - the potential for deepening relationships to place, maintaining a critical perspective of seeing themselves in the landscape, and perpetuating a strong sense of aloha for this island and her sources.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Kaʻū community’s long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate our rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for our community which still relies on subsistence fishing and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Kaʻū’s lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Kaʻū’s ancestors.

Mahalo,
Corie Yanger & Andrew Christie
808-430-0913/808-430-9363 and cmyanger@hawaii.edu/a_duncan_c@hotmail.com
February 10, 2021

State of Hawai‘i
Board of Land and Natural Resources
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land
reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association
fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i

My name is Patrick Conant and I am familiar with the areas in which Kiloka’a and Manaka’a fishing villages occur. For at least a few years I have been assisting with volunteer native strand vegetation restoration efforts with the Hawaii Wildlife Fund under a permit from DOFAW. I believe that the area from Ka’alu’alu to about Ki’i might be the most intact native strand vegetation in the State and it deserves better protection. We have been pulling up fountain grass, sandbur and other weeds along the Waiohinu coast, between those two sites for several years now. We are attempting to contain those 2 grasses, along with other weeds so the area does not burn, nor would native plants be outcompeted.

Also, I am a former State of Hawaii Entomologist and I recall that Entomologist Dr. Karl Magnacca has found Hylaeus* native bees in the area, and those should be studied more thoroughly there so protection can be implemented as necessary.

I cannot speak to the cultural aspects of these two fishing villages, but I do know the area is rich in what appear to be ancient trails throughout the pahoehoe and even a’a lava flats. Petroglyphs seem relatively common and there are many of what must be temporary inclimate weather shelters under rock overhangs.

In closing, I very much support the effort of The Trust for Public Lands and Ala Kahakai Trail Association assisting the Ka’u Community acquire and protect these two ancient fishing villages and the surrounding cultural landscape and native plant communities. Both could be easily damaged without some form of protection, and to some extent, the plants already are. Neglect alone is damaging. But, I am optimistic this effort will succeed, with the terrestrial plant and cultural sitesand the shoreline best protected by access continuing to be limited to the existing trails rather than building roads.

Patrick Conant,
Volcano, HI
From: gary johnson <gpjohnson2951@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 21, 2021 at 9:58 PM
Subject: Re: Kiolaka’a and Manaka’a Preservation Update
To: Jodie Rosam <jodie.rosam@gmail.com>

To the BLNR,

This testimony is in regard to the acquisition of Kiolaka’a and Manaka’a lands by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association.

I am a resident of Naalehu and I have supported a number of acquisitions of land for the preservation of the Ka’u coastline.

In particular, I volunteer regularly at Kawa Bay, which is part of the County’s holdings in Ka’u (acquired about five years ago.)

What I experience in the course of a day at Kawa Bay, represents the potential that Kiolaka’a and Manaka’a have to preserve the history, the ecology, and the spirit of shared community (aina) in Ka’u.

I work with Dwayne Pua and two other Hawaiians who have dedicated themselves to conserving and maintaining the land that for them has ancestral ties. I have helped to reintroduce native species. I have cleared the site of an ancient hale (as have Hawaiian families at a number of other sites.) I have worked to eliminate invasive species and opened up glades for larger species, such as acacia and Java plum. I have seen Dwayne rebuild the stonework channels for the freshwater springs that once supported Hawaiian villages, and more recently he and his crew are developing plots for traditional foods.

He is also working with the County, conservation groups and NOAA to create a long-term plan for the lagoons, tide pools and fish ponds.

Most importantly, his efforts have made Kawa Bay accessible in a way that has preserved its native flora, its history and its spirit.

This is the bay where all the locals learned to surf and it still draws surfers almost every day. Families come to the bay to fish and camp. My wife and I have hiked sections of the King’s Trail that runs north along the coastline (it is being reestablished by local groups.)

Why does this matter? It matters because Ka’u is unique. Large corporations have tried on numerous occasions to “develop” sections of the coastline, and each time have failed. But the people of this community (Hawaiians, Asians and haoles) have remained. Together they respect the land, and they work to insure that the land and the waters will continue to enrich the lives of all who live here.

Lastly, in preserving coastlines like Kawa Bay, Kiolaka’a and Manaka’a, Ka’u is linking together a number of already conserved lands, not just a token site. Where else is it possible to
conserve large ecological areas and critical ocean habitat, within the boundaries of an engaged and committed community? Where else is it possible to conserve land that represents generations of people who respect and value that heritage?

Thank you for the opportunity to speak of the necessity to keep these lands in the public domain.

Sincerely,

Gary and Deborah Johnson

P.O. Box 777
94-6557 Lewa Lani St.
Naalehu, HI
96772
My name is Selah Levine and I support Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land’s efforts to help the Ka’ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala). Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai’i’s past, present and future. ATA has a Ka’ū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Ka’ū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Ka’ū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Ka’ū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

Kiolaka’a is makai of Waiohinu Town and includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka’alu’alu Bay, portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. A network of trails lead to Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teeming with ʻōpae ʻula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka’ū’s paniolo traditions.

Manāka’a Fishing Village stands on the sea cliffs overlooking Waikapuna Bay, along with 22 precious cultural sites including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes. Over one mile of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the property and two ancient mauka-makai trails connect Naʻālehu with the coastline.

My family and neighbors enjoy this area for subsistence fishing. After the lava took the Pohoiki boat ramp we have no way to safely enter the ocean for fishing in Puna and now go to the this area of coastline to fish. I am sure that we are not the only family in Puna that frequent this area and due to increased pressure on this coastline it is even more important to protect it.

Without the protection this fragile coastline it will not sustain the needs of families who benefit from the natural and cultural resources of this land now, and for future generations.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Ka’ū community’s long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate our rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for our community which still relies on subsistence fishing and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Ka’ū’s lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka’ū’s ancestors.

Mahalo,
Selah Levine
808-769-1173, selahbit@gmail.com
February 5, 2021

State of Hawai‘i
Board of Land and Natural Resources
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land
reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association
fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village in Kaʻū, Hawai‘i

I, Cherie Felzer strongly support Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land’s efforts to help the Kaʻū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala). Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present and future. ATA has a Kaʻū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Kaʻū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Kaʻū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Kaʻū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

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Manāka’a Fishing Village stands on the sea cliffs overlooking Waikapuna Bay, along with 22 precious cultural sites including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes. Over one mile of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the property and two ancient mauka-makai trails connect Naʻālehu with the coastline.

I am a mental health counselor, committed to caring for ourselves, each other, and the earth, these lands that we live on and breathe on. Part of my work is working with children, supporting them to learn how to be in right relation with themselves, each other and the land around them.
Our children become so alive with the natural around them to teach them, rather than the screens that are becoming so pervasive. I first came to Kaʻu in 2003, and was immediately touched by the connection I felt to a different time. There was a very special part of Hawaiʻi that still felt alive here. I felt very privileged to be here, and as I came to know the community, understood that their connection to and protection of the land and the ways of life were part of what made it so special. Seeing clear to the ocean, unencumbered, with spaciousness, allowing plants and animals to flourish, brings wellbeing and connection to the people who live here, something that, as a mental health counselor, I see as imperative, as so many are struggling right now.

It is so important, not only to protect the land, and the Kaʻu coastline, but the cultural richness that exists throughout this landscape, including the native plant habitat and ancient sites, so that we can continue to flourish here as human beings, feeling connected to something greater, in a challenging time, bringing up our children and teaching them about the plants and the animals and the history of Hawaiʻi, of Kaʻu, of who they are.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Kaʻū community’s long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate our rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for our community which still relies on subsistence fishing and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Kaʻū’s lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Kaʻū’s ancestors.

Mahalo,
Cherie Felzer
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Weaving Pathways
510-545-2709
weavingpathways@gmail.com
I, John P. Kalua‘u, support Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s purchase of the Kiolakaa parcel. I am a rancher in Kau and presently lease a parcel in Kau for that purpose. I would like to see as much of the large lands parcels in Kau preserved and protected and not be developed. If the Association is successful in receiving the funds to purchase the parcel, it will be the last piece to connect Ka Lae to Honoapo for the benefit of the people of Kau. I ask the Land Board to please vote in favor of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s funding request.
Feb. 15, 2021

State of Hawai‘i
Board of Land and Natural Resources
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land
reyna.ramolete@ tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association
fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i

Aloha, and mahalo for giving us the opportunity to voice our opinion and concern regarding Kiolaka’a and Manaka’a. Our Ka‘u community is lucky to have the vigilance of Ala Kahakai Trail Association and the efforts of The Trust for Public Lands to help protect our precious treasures. Let’s agree, land is a limited resource. Once open space and access are developed or compromised; it’s gone. Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village are priceless, needing protection and stewardship to honor the history of our ancestors and preserve the land for future generations.

It’s estimated humans have modified more than 50% of Earth’s land surface. At the current rate of growth, it is unsustainable.* Much of Hawaii’s natural landscape is threatened by development, invasive species and global climate change. We’ve seen the loss of access on every island. It’s in all of our best interests to protect the open spaces that haven’t succumbed. Not only for their rich cultural significance and sensitive ecosystem, but for the bonding role they play in our community. It’s an amazing experience to spend a day at Ka’alu’alu Bay: playing on the shore, surfing, or hiking the coast – you can’t see one building. Please, let’s keep it that way; for all future generations to experience taking their keiki to this place to experience just being there. It’s so important, and once its gone, we won’t have another chance.

Mahalo,

Angela Guidi and Soli Coleman
PO Box 41
Na‘alehu, HI 96772
spareroom@mac.com

* (cited from an Article in GSA Today by scholars Roger LeB. Hooke (School of Earth and Climate Sciences and Climate Change Institute, University of Maine) and José F. Martín-Duque (Dept. of Geodynamics and Geosciences Institute, Complutense University, Madrid, Spain)
February 23rd, 2021

State of Hawai‘i
Board of Land and Natural Resources
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The Trust for Public Land
reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association
fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village in Ka'ū, Hawai‘i

Foster Hair Design LLC strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land’s efforts to help the Ka‘ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala). Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present and future. ATA has a Ka‘ū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Ka‘ū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Ka‘ū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Ka‘ū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

Kiolaka’a is makai of Waiohinu Town and includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka‘ulu‘alu Bay, portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. A network of trails lead to Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teeming with ‘ōpae ‘ula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka‘ū's paniolo traditions.

Manāka’a Fishing Village stands on the sea cliffs overlooking Waikapuna Bay, along with 22 precious cultural sites including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes. Over one mile of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the property and two ancient mauka-makai trails connect Na‘ālehu with the coastline.
I (Kady Foster) and my husband (Drew Foster) own Foster Hair Design. We are a hairdresser/barber team with a salon in Na‘ālehu. We as a family believe in supporting the people of Kaʻū and giving what we can to our communities. We strive to care and provide our services in this community for all who need it.

My daughter was born here in Kaʻū and is growing up here. I feel unbelievably fortunate that she gets to live and learn in a community that is as diverse and resilient as Kaʻū.

We live here because of the nature. In my belief system we understand that we are nature not just a part of it, but it. We need nature equally as we need water or oxygen. It is the birth place of both. Our families special connection to this area is the deeply profound connection that it is our honest home, the planet that provides life for us, and it is disappearing all around us. Most people on this planet would feel a sense of connection to this coastline. It is raw and true. It is the spirit that is each of us. Every sacrosanct piece of earth that is left needs to be saved and protected.

It is important to our family to protect the Kaʻū coastline because we believe the people of today have to start leaving the land in better condition then when we found it or soon enough our children will be deprived of natural resources.

To our family this is not a singular issue. Plenty of academic studies along with day to day truth shows us the rate of which humans are becoming depressed, anxious, overwhelmed, unhappy, etc. Yes, this is for a lot of complex reasons but these emotions are signals. This epidemic of suicide, depression, and anxiety disorders are screaming to us that we are not living a life that is aligned with being happy, joyful, or fulfilled in the way we know we could.

The raw land as it is, the Kaʻū, is our true and honest home. Just by looking at it alone we are gifted with a calmness, lightness, and largeness which is breathtaking and to significant for words. We are not meant to wipe away its beauty which took hundreds of thousands of years to create and we know it is irreplaceable. Like all beautiful and resourceful nature that has been remade by humans can never be undone. The state of Hawaii has been a victim to this for decades. Please consider that our future generations do not live without wildlife for we are made from it, we are it, without it there will be nothing left to support our human lives and the children that follow.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Kaʻū community’s long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate our rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for our community which still relies on subsistence fishing and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Kaʻū’s lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Kaʻū’s ancestors.
Mahalo,

Kady Foster
Foster Hair Design LLC
808-895-2151
book@fosterhair.com
March, 11, 2021

State of Hawai‘i
Board of Land and Natural Resources
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land
reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association
fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village in Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i

I, Alex Wang, strongly support Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land’s efforts to help the Ka‘ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala). Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present and future. ATA has a Ka‘ū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Ka‘ū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Ka‘ū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Ka‘ū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

Kiolaka’a is makai of Waiohinu Town and includes intact native dryland forest, the eastern shoreline of Ka‘alu’alu Bay, portions of the ancient Kamakalepo settlement and Lua Nunu cave system, and a segment of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. A network of trails lead to Kapenako, a fresh water spring and anchialine pond teeming with ‘ōpae ‘ula. The mauka pasture lands are leased for cattle grazing, perpetuating Ka‘ū's paniolo traditions.

Manāka’a Fishing Village stands on the sea cliffs overlooking Waikapuna Bay, along with 22 precious cultural sites including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes. Over one mile of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the property and two ancient mauka-makai trails connect Na‘ālehu with the coastline.

Ka‘alu’alu Bay is a special birding location for our native shorebirds such as the Kōlea (Pluvialis fulva), the ‘Ūlili (Tringa incana) and the Huna kai (Calidris alba). Especially in fall and winter, this serves as a gathering place of these shorebirds and concentrates them in numbers far
exceeding nearly anywhere else on the Big Island. I have seen well over 200 kōlea in this bay at one time! The kōlea use the bay to rest in between tides when they can no longer feed on the exposed shoreline at low tide. Nearby development would be harmful for these birds and likely would drastically reduce the effectiveness of this stop over point as a resting area for the kōlea.

Additionally, I think there are those among us in the community at large that like to visit Ka’alu’alu for recreational bird watching. I have friends from Hilo, HPP, Volcano and even Oahu that have visited Ka’alu’alu for the express purpose of seeing the birds in this area. This is a very passive activity that has very little negative impact on the land or its resources. I think that building development adjacent to the bay would greatly diminish the scenic beauty and natural value of this location for birds and bird watchers alike.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Ka‘ū community’s long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate our rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for our community which still relies on subsistence fishing and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Ka‘ū’s lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka‘ū’s ancestors.

Mahalo,
Alex Wang
Biologist and avid Bird Watcher
(808) 937-7924, axwang12@gmail.com
February, 8, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I very strongly support the Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land’s efforts to help the Ka‘ū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala). Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai‘i’s past, present and future. ATA has a Ka‘ū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Ka‘ū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Ka‘ū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Ka‘ū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

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Manāka’a Fishing Village stands on the sea cliffs overlooking Waikapuna Bay, along with 22 precious cultural sites including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes. Over one mile of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the property and two ancient mauka-makai trails connect Na‘ālehu with the coastline.

I grew up in an area that had thousands of acres of open space, many farms and beautiful meadows and pastures were the fabric of the landscape in suburban Philadelphia. In the late 80’s and early 90’s many farmers died and their children who inherited these farms and meadows didn’t have the same connection to the land, it was no longer viewed as an essential aspect of their life and many sold their beautiful land to the highest bidder who happened to be developers. These developers wished to extract the most value out of the land in the quickest most financially lucrative way, which was to subdivide the open space and build roads and homes. Once land has been sub-divided and developed there is no going back, no flocks of migratory geese to honk their way north in the spring and south in the autumn. This development has created many unforeseen consequences. Roads that once were easy to walk or bike on became too busy and filled with traffic it became dangerous to continue. The lack of foresight has also created flash flooding events in the area streams eroding their banks dropping trees and silting up the waterways, displacing freshwater mollusks and filling in swimming holes and fishing spots. This short-sighted rush to create jobs and wealth for a few has ruined the land for the many.

I left that space because the momentum was too great to stop and broke the balance between development and nature. People who seek quick short term monetary gains are drunk with greed. Progress is necessary in the
direction of resilience and regeneration. These coastal lands are an asset to Ka‘u and need to be preserved so that our future generations have the opportunity to experience life in its wild form.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Ka‘ū community’s long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate our rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for our community which still relies on subsistence fishing and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Ka‘ū’s lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Ka‘ū’s ancestors.

Mahalo,
kevin oconnor
Kevin@beeboys.org
808-987-7416
Beeboys.org

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
February 6, 2021

State of Hawaiʻi
Board of Land and Natural Resources
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

The Trust for Public Land
reyna.ramolete@tpl.org

Ala Kahakai Trail Association
fox@alakahakaitrail.org

Re: Testimony in Support of Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s and Trust for Public Land’s Efforts to Protect and Acquire Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village in Kaʻū, Hawai‘i

BEE BOYS LLC strongly supports Ala Kahakai Trail Association and The Trust for Public Land’s efforts to help the Kaʻū community purchase and forever protect Kiolaka’a and Manāka’a Fishing Village (the makai lands of Kāwala). Ala Kahakai Trail Association’s mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawaiʻi’s past, present and future. ATA has a Kaʻū Stewardship Committee which is comprised entirely of Kaʻū residents to guide the stewardship and management of its Kaʻū lands. If ATA is successful in protecting these properties, it has committed to developing a Community Management Plan in partnership with Kaʻū community groups, descendants, and stakeholders within 18 months of taking ownership. ATA is committed to community-based management of these lands and their natural and cultural resources.

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Manāka’a Fishing Village stands on the sea cliffs overlooking Waikapuna Bay, along with 22 precious cultural sites including heiau, burial caves, lava tube habitation sites, water collection caves with underground springs, and ancient habitation complexes. Over one mile of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the property and two ancient mauka-makai trails connect Naʻālehu with the coastline.

We are regenerative beekeepers, manufacturing food products and skin care products with our honeybee colonies. Our product quality and certification relies on natural beekeeping methods and pristine environmental conditions- including access to forage for our honeybees. The Kaʻū
coast is unique, free from commercial agriculture, golf courses and developments that threaten bees and contaminate their honey and products. We’ve built a business, dependent on the rare & rich open space below our apiary, where our bees forage. We supply some of Hawaii’s best hotels, grocers and boutiques with our coastal honey and products.

Protecting the coast protects the value of my company, the vitality of our bees, and the sustainability of our community. We chose coastal Ka’u to start our business, because the undeveloped lands offers us a rare and unparalleled product, that can’t be found anywhere else on the planet.

Protecting these lands would fulfill the Kaʻū community’s long standing goal of protecting our beloved 80 mile coast to perpetuate our rural lifestyle and Hawaiian culture. Access to the coastline is important for our community which still relies on subsistence fishing and gathering. Conserving this landscape will enable community based management of Kaʻū’s lands and resources, and perpetuate cultural and subsistence access to the coast for descendants, community members, and the public, allowing all to walk in the footsteps of Kaʻū’s ancestors.

Mahalo,
Ryan Williamson
Director / Owner Bee Boys LLC
ryan@beeboys.org
808-333-6895
Beeboys.org
Aloha:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of my wife, Carol Fong, and myself in support of granting an award for the preservation of Kiolaka’a at Ka’alu’alu Bay and Manaka’a, the Maniania Pali above Waikapuna. Protecting the Ka’u coastline is of the utmost importance to us, certainly, but also to the island. If we continue to develop all of the postcard-esque beauty of the island then we will only have postcards to refer to when we speak of it.

That does not even begin to address the cultural significance of preserving such places, which others can speak to better than we. We did not grow up here, but we plan on growing the rest of our lives together here in Ka’u. We treat our home as a bird sanctuary. We’re here to protect them and their land and they let us squat here in our house. At least that’s the way we see it. We believe in maintaining as much natural balance as possible. And I think we all see, at this point in history, that we need to alter our vision of the future from one of development and so-called "forward thinking" to one of appreciation for and preservation of what is here right now: terrific beauty, the roots of Hawaiian culture, the miracle of life itself.

Please, let’s not continue to consume the island until we’re the last organisms standing. Let’s protect the Ka’u coastline and see what grows there when we don’t build there.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Vaeni & Carol Fong
Aloha,

I wanted to write in support of C1B and C1C. This area is truly pristine and one of a kind; it should be preserved for future generations. It is a sacred and memorable place for anyone that has ever visited, surfed, camped, fished, or just hiked through.

I remember the last time I went down for my friend's birthday a few months ago. We were able to enjoy a part of the coastline all to ourselves from the sandy coves to the tide pools to just watching the waves. It is truly a magical and untouched place that should be preserved for future generations. I can't express this highly enough.

Iria-Carmen
(808) 990-0372
Dear Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing in support of the protection of Kaʻu’s Kiolakaʻa and Manākaʻa lands. These lands provide critical habitat for numerous native plant and animal species, many of which are threatened or endangered. These lands also represent the cultural heritage of the people of Kaʻu, and deserve to be protected for future generations. These lands are connected with a multitude of cultural stories, sustainable use practices, indigenous knowledge, archeological significance, scientific study, critically important habitats for native species. Losing these lands to development and destruction would be absolutely devastating. Our family is born and raised in Kaʻu, and the health of these lands is a piece of our identity.

At a time when human impact on the natural world has resulted in mass extinction of many species, and the destruction of indigenous lands has disconnected people from their heritage, we are presented with this unique and powerful opportunity to conserve something so precious. These lands are so much more to so many people, and if they are preserved and protected, they will remain a resource for our children and their children. If these lands are lost to development, we can never reclaim them, and they will be relegated to the list of lost opportunities of gifting the next generations with something intact, healthy, natural and culturally important. I urge you to please choose to protect them.

I also want to extend my deep mahalo to the many dedicated people who are committed to protecting our special, unique, and precious island home.

He Aliʻi Ka ʻĀina; He Kauwā ke Kanaka
The land is chief; man is its servant

Mahalo nui,

Caitlin Kryss & Taz Rosam
Aloha,

My name is Justin Lee, and I’m emailing in support of item C1B and C1C Kiolaka’a and Manaka’a. As an avid fisherman, spearfisherman, ophi picking, ogo collecting, ‘a’ama catching local Big Island boy this south coast holds a special place to my heart. With such a special place available to save for future generation to use for cultural activities and as a natural classroom I believe it’s of the upmost importance to protect these areas. If you have questions please don’t hesitate to email or call me.

Mahalo,

Justin Lee
(808) 315-2584; Cell
(808) 896-1664; Office
JustinL@Haloaaina.com
PO Box 1677 Honoka’a, HI 96727
To whom it may concern,

I am in support of Item C1B and C1C Kiolaka’a and Manaka’a.

I have grown up going to these coastal areas to enjoy camping and fishing with family and friends. This relationship with this place has continued to grow along as I have. Preserving areas like these is as important as ever to local people who gather resources and practice cultural protocols. Are reliance on tourism has shown its downfalls in this most recent pandemic. I believe we as a community should be able to access and protect our natural resources like Kiolakaa and manakaa.

Mahalo, Justin Yeh
HI MY NAME IS ALLAN FRANCO, IM A LOCAL MEN BORN AND RAISED IN THE ISLAND OF MOLOKAI ,I NOW LIVE ON THE BIG ISLAND, I FISH FOR FOOD FOR MY FAMILY AND PICK LIMU FOR KAUKAU, AND OPIHI FOR MY FAMILY. I GREW UP AS A SMALL BOY ALWAYS GOING TO THE BEACH, AND IM 62 YEARS OLD NOW AND HAVE BEEN FISHING FOR ULUA FOR 43 YEARS. AND NOW I FISH KAU DISTRICT. SO YES I DO SUPPORT SUBJECT ITEM C1B AND C1C Kiolaka'a and Manaka'a ALOHA
Aloha,

I’m writing in strong support for the protection of Kiolaka’a for conservation, agriculture, and cultural preservation. That’s why I strongly support the vision of Ala Kahakai Trail Association which is: to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow – with protocols and respect for Hawai’i past, present and future. ATA’s vision is community-based management of the trail and its surrounding natural and cultural landscape.

I’ve worked with this group in the past and have huge respect for the work they do. And though I’m not a Ka’u dweller, I’m also familiar with other groups and individuals who are and who have spent hundreds, if not thousands of hours working for decades to protect this land and its nearshore resources from environmental and cultural degradation. The far too few times I’ve visited the area (and all over 20 years ago), I found it to be amazing, wild and wonderful in indescribable ways— unique in the world. and that’s not counting the cultural resources which are ancient and living at the same time.

I hope that this crucial layer of protection and management will be given to Kiolaka’a.

Mahalo and sincerely,
Janice Palma-Glennie

P.O. Box 4849
Kailua-Kona, Hawai‘i 96745

Tel#808-324-0093
Cell#808-989-3549
Aloha kakou,

As a resident of Moku Keawe, I strongly support preserving the natural beauty of our coastline. The land at Kiolaka’a has many ancient and sacred historical sites as well as endangered dryland ecosystems and their plant and animal inhabitants. Preserving this stretch of Hawaii’s natural coastline makes good sense for future generations when one considers how little unspoiled undeveloped coast remains in the State.

Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition. Mahalo nui.

Signed sincerely,
Hal Tredinnick
Aloha:

I think we all know by now the importance of preserving Hawaiian lands, cultural artifacts, the coastline, and rare flora. I think we also all know by now the Ka'u community's impressive ability to stave off big businesses from gobbling up the land. But if this land gets sold off to everyday individuals looking to build houses and the such, there is no remedy for that except for the Ala Kahakai Trail Association to buy it first. Thankfully, Keoni Fox and company are more than capable of preserving and maintaining the land with true aloha aina and help from the community.

On a personal note, we know from numerous conversations we've had with Keoni that he feels it's his kuleana to help protect Ka'u from overdevelopment. Some people fear that he's not really from here and so suspect his motives. But the fact is, he has deep familial roots in Ka'u, puts his job on hold, his family life on hold, and tirelessly island hops between here and Oahu for the sake of the land. He does this despite the constant barrage of mud slung at him by people who don't know him and don't realize what he has given and is giving for all of us.

We love this place and we want to keep this place we love as intact as possible. This is a rare opportunity to preserve a large area of coastal lands that cannot be wasted. The Ala Kahakai Trail Association is the only organization to have stepped up. They want to work with the community for solutions to caretaking, access, and education that benefits all of us and protects the land. It's time to work together.

We respectfully ask the Board to grant them the money to purchase the land. It will be money well-spent and sadly, much needed.

Mahalo,

Jeremy Vaeni
Carol Fong
Aloha kakou,

My name is Joshua VanDeMark. I live in Hilo and I am writing to support the acquisition of the Kau properties at Kiolakaa by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association.

I have a background in natural area and ecosystem protection, with 20 years of experience and a focus on native Hawaiian plant conservation. The lands at Kalae, Kaalualu, Kamilo, Kiolakaa, and Waikapuna hold special resources, intact native plant communities that have been destroyed by land use and development elsewhere on the island and across the state. There are parts of this coastline where the vegetation is still dominated by native species, and in the mauka regions, there are remnants of lowland dry forest that are gone from most of the island. Researchers estimate Hawaii has lost 90 percent of its dry forests. We can't afford to lose the last remaining examples we have. Species that are almost gone from the rest of the island, like hao, aiea, ohai, and others, still persist here. A trip to this part of the island can give a glimpse of what Hawaii looked like 100, 200 years ago. It gives us a connection to the past. Additionally, the plants here can provide propagules for the restoration of these communities elsewhere on the island.

When land changes hands, typically that results in changes in land use. This can bring devastating impacts to native ecosystem whether through development, increased fire risk, ungulates, or other factors. I would like to see these parcels go to the Ala Kahakai Trail Association because I am familiar with their organization and I know they are dedicated to protecting natural and cultural resources and ensuring that people of Hawaii have access to experience and enjoy special places like Kiolakaa for generations to come.

Mahalo,

Joshua VanDeMark

2221 Kaiwiki Road
Hilo, HI
Dear Chairperson and Members of B.L.N.R.,

My name is Darlyne Vierra, lifetime resident of Na’alehu, Ka’u Hawaii. I just wanted to share my mana’o to all. Yes we all want to PRESERVE the coastline, beaches, parks, here in Ka’u. Yes we up against big Developers, Companies with money. If we disagree, we all speak up what we like or want not they tell us what they like, its our home stand together speak up.

The people, the communities from H.O.V.E., Ranchos, Kama’oa, Wai’omao, Kioloka’a, Wai’ohinu, Na’alehu, Pahala, Wood Valley as far as K.M.C. and the subdivision at the golf club thats Ka’u district.

Yes, We Hawaiian or Non-Hawaiians born, raised, moved here to live this is all everyone’s home our Ka’u.

We all go fishing, hunting for pigs, goats, Mouflons and some raise cattle for home use, some sell.

It's generational knowledge our culture and Tradition that most of us grew up with from learning from all our Elders. And till this day we pass it on to our children, grand children our future generation.

THIS IS WHO WE ARE—KA’U......

IF WE NOT GATHERING FROM MAUKA, KUAHIWI, WE GATHERING FROM MAKAI, TODAY, sad, we the people getting blocked off by barbwire, hog-wire fences and gates by new owners and leasee, BUT people generational families Remember!!

Our Queen's Law- The Highway Act of 1892, Pash Rights to gather with respect to the owners.

KUPA’A; WE ALL MUST STAND TOGETHER AS ONE MOUK OHANA!

We cannot let outside corporations, Associations, developers, go get the grant money, to control, sweet talk our young generation to support them and not tell our Ka’u young generation the TRUTH, for their gains like ALA KAHAKAI TRAIL ASSOC not being Honest, this is why I feel AKTA should not be given the grant money. They have all these lands of Kaunamano, Stewartship however with the Makahiki Grounds in Kaunamano, and Waikapuna Properties, really what do they showed to the communities of Ka’u? Well one off the highway and you cannot miss it, the goats, sheeps help eating
the grass in the Makahiki grounds that suppose to have native plants, and being a historic site, they claim to get rid of Ungulates, in there properties, they also living on the property to watch the goats. What is put in their proposal or whatever written is not what they are doing.

As same with Kiolaka'a, As Kamakalepo cave this is a place name our oldtimers my dad Ka'alu'alu Cave, known as Kamanu cave. I wrote to PONC and told them about 5 entry way, should be fenced off from Man and Beast, its a Pu'uhonua, (Refuge) Hutchinson sugar unrecorded Fallout Shelter or privilege granted the County of Hawaii in 1960s Grant portion 3210 as a civil defense shelter.

For me this is like a watershed, freshwater flows from here comes out trickles down to Ka'alu'alu Ponds, to Kamilo, to Pai'aha'a Bay, I remember just below the cave they had a big windmill, my dad said that how they pump the water to feed, even the cattle had a big water hole by Pai'aha'a (also known as shark Bay). And document shows Iwi Kupuna of 3 Alii Nui and their kahu, buried in different caverns this is very sacred to our Native Hawaiian, Kanaka Maoli, Like uncle Kawai Hewett says and it is true, I do believe;

"The people is the Natural Resource, The people are the Land. We are Keiki 'O Ka "Aina"

I do OPPOSE all AKTA Acquisition for Manaka'a and Kioloka'a.

Mahalo, Darlyne Vierra and My Ohana, Vierra, Kama, Beck, Wentworth, Kaleohano, Ke, Kaaua, Wahineauwana, Kamana, Kapele and many more.

Sincerely, Darlyne P. Vierra (President-Ka'u Multicultural Society, Ka'u Historian)

Darlyne Vierra
P.O. Box 22
Naalehu, HI 96772
Aloha kakou,
Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition.
Thank you.
Suzanne Villeneuve
Kapa'au, Hi 967555
Ka`alu`alu Bay should not be developed into a housing development. There are very few areas, residents of the Big Island can go to camp with their family, and enjoy the island; recreationally.

The costs of the island are becoming expensive for local people to even afford homes, and their taxes being driven up. Stop the spread, allow communities to be affordable for local families. Maui, Kauai, Kona, ... how difficult is it for locals to afford living.

THE NATIVE HAWKBILL TURTLES, Love KAU. They nest along the coast. Development will take away their nesting, influx of people, pets, will destroy nests along this remote beach area. The lights of development will cause turtles coming in to be distracted by the lights of housing and lure them in the wrong directions. Hawksbill Turtles are endangered, if not critically endangered species.

The area, so near to an active volcano, seems risky, at the coast to place development due to the threat of tsunami as well.

Laura Warner
Aloha,
To whom it may concern,

I wish to state my testimony that I support agenda item c2b. I wish to see the Ka'ū coastline preserved from development in perpetuity, and I support Ala Kahakai Trail Association as the initial land steward.

Mahalo,
Suszan M Warner
Resident of Kau since 2004
Aloha Kākou,

As a resident of Ka‘ū, I strongly support preserving the natural beauty of our coastline. Once we lose it, there is no going back. I know most of you on the committee live in urban environments and long for open preserved spaces like all people. **If we don't act now then there is no going back.** The land at Kiolaka’a has many ancient and sacred historical sites as well as endangered dryland ecosystems. Preserving this stretch of Hawaii’s natural coastline makes good sense for future generations when one considers how little unspoiled undeveloped coast remains in the State. Think, your grandkids will have a place to roam, think and be in nature if you act to preserve.

Please vote in favor of funding this land acquisition.

Mahalo,

David Wells
95-4927 Hawaii Belt Rd.
Na‘alehu, HI. 96772
I am a resident of Ka’u and have lived in Na’alehu since 2001. I’m from Oahu and I’m 62 years old.

Between 1968 and 2001, I observed the over-development of Oahu and moved to Ka’u in order to live in an area with minimal development and maximum intact natural areas.

It is vital that the lowlands and coastal areas of Ka’u are preserved and saved from development. This area is the last large undeveloped contiguous natural lowland coastal area left in the State of Hawaii. It must be preserved as such for future generations that they too may experience the benefits only such large natural areas can offer to the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of their humanity.

There are many people living in Ka’u who are willing and able and interested to sustain an organization that will work with all state and interested local organizations in order to properly steward the preservation of all the remaining undeveloped lowland and coastal areas in Ka’u.

Thank you for adding my assertions in this matter to the many that you have already received. Thank you for considering and acknowledging the strong community-based interest in keeping this one-of-a-kind natural area undeveloped.

Laura Wong
POB 502
Na’alehu, Hi
96772

Sent from my iPhone