

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

June 10, 2021

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF A HEARING MASTER'S REPORT, SET ASIDE OF APPROXIMATELY 300 ACRES AS THE PIA NATURAL AREA RESERVE, TMK (1) 3-7-003:003, O'AHU; AND 0.75 ACRES AS AN EXTENSION TO THE KA'ENA POINT NATURAL AREA RESERVE, TMK (1) 6-9-002:012, O'AHU

AND

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION FROM PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UNDER HRS CHAPTER 343 AND HAR CHAPTER 11.200.1 FOR PROPOSED NATURAL AREA RESERVE MANAGEMENT OF THESE PARCELS.

BACKGROUND:

Two O'ahu properties are proposed to be designated as Natural Area Reserves (NARs), under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW). Both of these lands were given to the State for conservation purposes – Patricia Godfrey donated Pia valley in 2021, and the Tom Family donated the Ka'ena parcel in 2019. In addition to the outstanding contributions of these landowners, the State also acknowledges the contributions of the North Shore Community Land Trust which provided technical and financial assistance for the transaction costs for the Ka'ena parcel. DLNR's Legacy Land Conservation Program provided funding for due diligence. Attachments 1 and 2 contain the Pia and Ka'ena Point Extension NAR Proposals, which includes maps and a description of the ecosystems, rare species, and resources that led to these nominations.

The proposed Pia NAR is within Pia Valley, *mauka* of the Hawai'i Loa and Niu Valley subdivisions up to the Ko'olau crest. The western boundary of the property roughly follows the Hawai'i Loa trail, managed by DOFAW's Na Ala Hele system. Access to the trailhead is provided by the Hawai'i Loa Ridge Owners Association and designation of this area as a Natural Area Reserve is anticipated to benefit public access by providing long-term management as a Reserve. The proposed NAR

contains 'ōhi'a and uluhe-dominated forests and the inclusion of this area into the NARS would increase the representation of Oahu's lowland mesic ecosystems. This undeveloped area is in the Conservation District, Resource subzone.

The proposed extension to the Ka'ena Point NAR is within the ahupua'a of Ka'ena and is located in the Resource Subzone of the Conservation District and within the County Special Management Area. It is approximately 1,450 feet east of the boulder barricade towards Mokule'ia and contains a small cove. The inclusion of this area into the NARS is meant to expand protection to a coastal ecosystem, including a relatively protected beach that is an important resting area for rare marine vertebrates. This area also is also potential habitat for the rare plant and animal species found at Ka'ena Point, if it were similarly managed as the NAR.

The NARS Commission approved DOFAW's recommendation for the Ka'ena Point and Pia NAR expansions on June 2, 2011, and July 30, 2015, respectively.

Approval to hold a public hearing was granted by the Board of Land and Natural Resources on February 12, 2021. Notice of public hearing was published pursuant to §195, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. A press release and notice of the hearing was issued to newspapers and to interested parties. A virtual public hearing was held on March 25, 2021 via zoom. DLNR staff and 9 members of the public attended and two testified in support. Written testimony was also received. Attachment 3 contains the hearing master's report as well as the full text of the testimony received on the proposals.

DISCUSSION

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) recommends these areas to fulfill the NARS' mission to preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the natural flora and fauna, as well as geological sites, of Hawai'i.

Public comments on Pia NAR

Pia received four testimonies in support, and one in opposition due to the potential for fencing. An alternate suggestion was made that public hunters be used to remove pigs. Currently, Pia is not a public hunting area, however there are hunting areas adjacent. DOFAW has not determined whether to add the area to a public hunting area, which requires a rule change (HAR 13-123) and is a lengthy administrative process. In the interim, DOFAW is planning on issuing wildlife damage control permits to allow hunting in this area. However, the overall goal will remain animal removal rather than sustained hunting opportunities. Eventually, when funding allows, fencing is the most long-term and secure way to protect the native forest and endangered plants from damage. There are species of rare plants that only exist in Pia. Damage from the pigs that roam Pia valley could mean the extinction of these species in the wild. Fences will be constructed with gates and step-overs to allow for public access.

Public comments on the extension of Ka`ena NAR

Ka`ena received four comments in support, seven in opposition, and an additional two that did not mention the NAR designation, but, like the other opposition comments, were concerned about vehicle restrictions. DOFAW does not have any immediate plans to put in a vehicular barrier, however the cove provides a strategic “pinch point” that could be used to redirect vehicles away from sensitive coastal areas. Currently, while there are designated roads and parking areas in this ¼ mile stretch of coastline between the cove and the existing vehicular barrier, there are no physical barriers that prevent vehicles from driving over native vegetation, which still occurs. The action before the Board is only to designate the cove as a Natural Area Reserve, but this designation will lead to management prioritizing protection of the native coastal ecosystem.

Before the point was protected from vehicles, it was largely unvegetated, and had no nesting seabirds. Dramatic restoration has occurred since the area was protected from vehicles, and the area now has the largest colony of Laysan Albatross in the main Hawaiian islands. Multiple species of seabirds, monk seals, and endangered native plants have now recolonized areas now that vehicles no longer run over their habitat. This coastline also contains `iwi kupuna which are also at risk of being unearthed and crushed by vehicles.

The sand dunes are a unique Hawaiian ecosystem, and many native plants are adapted to that sandy substrate, and cannot thrive in dirt or rocky soils. Currently, the sand dune habitat protected by vehicles is only approximately 25 acres (the remaining approximately 35 acres is rock or dirt substrate). Approximately eight more acres of sand dune habitat exists between the existing vehicular barrier and the proposed NAR. Hawaii’s coastal ecosystems have been some of the most impacted by humans. On O`ahu, they have been almost entirely developed by resorts and residences, and these few dozen acres at Ka`ena are tiny in comparison to the previous expanse of this native ecosystem that largely encircled the island. Protecting these small remaining sections will allow the perpetuation of this unique Hawaiian ecosystem for current and future generations.

CHAPTER 343 – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This action before the Board represents a transfer in management jurisdiction and does not constitute a use of State lands or funds, and therefore, this action is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 343, HRS, relating to environmental impact statements. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife shall be responsible for compliance with Chapter 343, HRS, as amended for NARS program activities on the land that are not otherwise included in existing environmental compliance documents for that parcel. Pursuant to HAR § 11-200-8, foreseeable uses of the State lands by the NARS program include:

General Exemption Type 3

Construction and location of single new, small facilities or structures and the alteration and modification of the facilities or structures and installation of new, small, equipment and facilities and the alteration and modification of the equipment or facilities, including but not limited to: (A) Single family residences less than 3,500 square feet, as measured by the controlling law under which the proposed action is being considered, if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such units; (B) Multi-unit structures designed for not more than four dwelling units if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such structures; (C) Stores, offices and restaurants designed for total occupant load of twenty individuals or fewer per structure, if not in conjunction with the building of two or more such structures; and (D) Water, sewage, electrical, gas, telephone, and other essential public utility services extensions to serve such structures or facilities; accessory or appurtenant structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences; and acquisition of utility easements.

PART 1

10. Construction, placement or installation of signage, pavement markings, buoys, or other similar structures.

13. Installation of glare screens, bollards, guard rails, vehicular access barriers, and other similar appurtenances designed to protect the public.

PART 2

1. Natural resource management actions that the Department declares are designed specifically to monitor, conserve, or enhance the status of native species or native species' habitats, such as fences around or to manage rare, threatened or endangered plants. Fences shall contain step-overs or other features that permit pedestrian access for cultural and recreational use.

General Exemption Type 4

Minor alterations in the conditions of land, water, or vegetation.

PART 1

3. Removal of invasive vegetation utilizing cutting, mowing, application of federal and state approved herbicides in conformance with label instructions, distribution of biocontrol agents already approved and permitted by the State of Hawaii, and other approved methods. This exemption would not apply to issuing permits for initial releases of biocontrol of invasive species which are regulated and permitted by the Department of Agriculture or commercial logging.

5. Establish temporary or permanent vegetative cover including trees, shrubs, grasses, and sod for landscaping, reforestation, soil stabilization, watershed protection, native wildlife habitat, native ecosystem restoration, and rare plant preservation; provided, however, that this exemption shall not apply to vegetation that is likely to be invasive or for tree plantings for which harvesting is planned or is reasonably foreseeable.

14. Fire management activities, including prevention and restoration measures, when conducted in accordance with Departmental and Division procedures.

16. The reintroduction or supplementation (e.g., stocking) of native, formerly native, or established species into suitable habitat within their historic or established range, where no or negligible environmental disturbances are anticipated.

17. Establishment of helispots for fire control, natural resource management, and rescue.

Date of Agency Exemption List: November 10, 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Board:

- 1) Accept the Hearing Master's Report (Attachment 3).
- 2) Approve of and recommend to the Governor the issuance of an executive order setting aside approximately 300 acres, TMK (1) 3-7-003:003, Pia, O'ahu, to the State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, for the Pia Natural Area Reserve, and further subject to the following:
 - a. The standard terms and conditions of the most current executive order form, as may be amended from time to time;
 - b. Disapproval by the Legislature by two-thirds vote of either the House of Representatives or the Senate or by a majority vote by both in any regular or special session next following the date of the setting aside;
 - c. Review and approval by the Department of the Attorney General; and
 - d. Such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.
- 3) Approve of and recommend to the Governor the issuance of an executive order setting aside approximately 0.75 acres, TMK (1) 6-9-002:012, Ka'ena, O'ahu to the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, for the extension of Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve and further subject to the following:

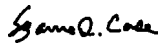
- a. The standard terms and conditions of the most current executive order form, as may be amended from time to time;
 - b. Disapproval by the Legislature by two-thirds vote of either the House of Representatives or the Senate or by a majority vote by both in any regular or special session next following the date of the setting aside;
 - c. Review and approval by the Department of the Attorney General; and
 - d. Such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.
- 4) Declare that, after considering the potential effects of the proposed natural area reserves management as provided by Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200, HAR, this management will likely have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.

Respectfully Submitted,



David G. Smith, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



Suzanne D. Case., Chairperson

Attachments

Attachment 1

PROPOSAL FOR THE PIA NATURAL AREA RESERVE

February 2021

I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *mauka* (upland) portion of Pia Valley, on the island of O‘ahu, is proposed for inclusion in the State of Hawai‘i Natural Area Reserve System (NARS). The proposed Pia NAR contains unique lowland mesic (moist) ecosystems in the leeward Ko‘olau mountains, and habitat for extremely rare plants and animals. Some plants and animals in the proposed Pia NAR are found nowhere else in the world. This parcel was generously donated to the Department of Land and Natural Resources by landowner Patricia Godfrey.

II INTRODUCTION (General)

This Reserve would include an area of approximately 300 acres of Pia Valley *mauka* of the Hawai‘i Loa and Niu Valley subdivisions up to the Ko‘olau crest in the Hawai‘i Kai region of O‘ahu, TMK 3-7-03:03 (Figure 1).

The proposed NAR contains ‘Ōhi‘a and uluhe-dominated forests (US Dept. of Interior, 2006; Figure 2). The inclusion of this area into the NARS would increase the representation of O‘ahu’s lowland mesic ecosystems.

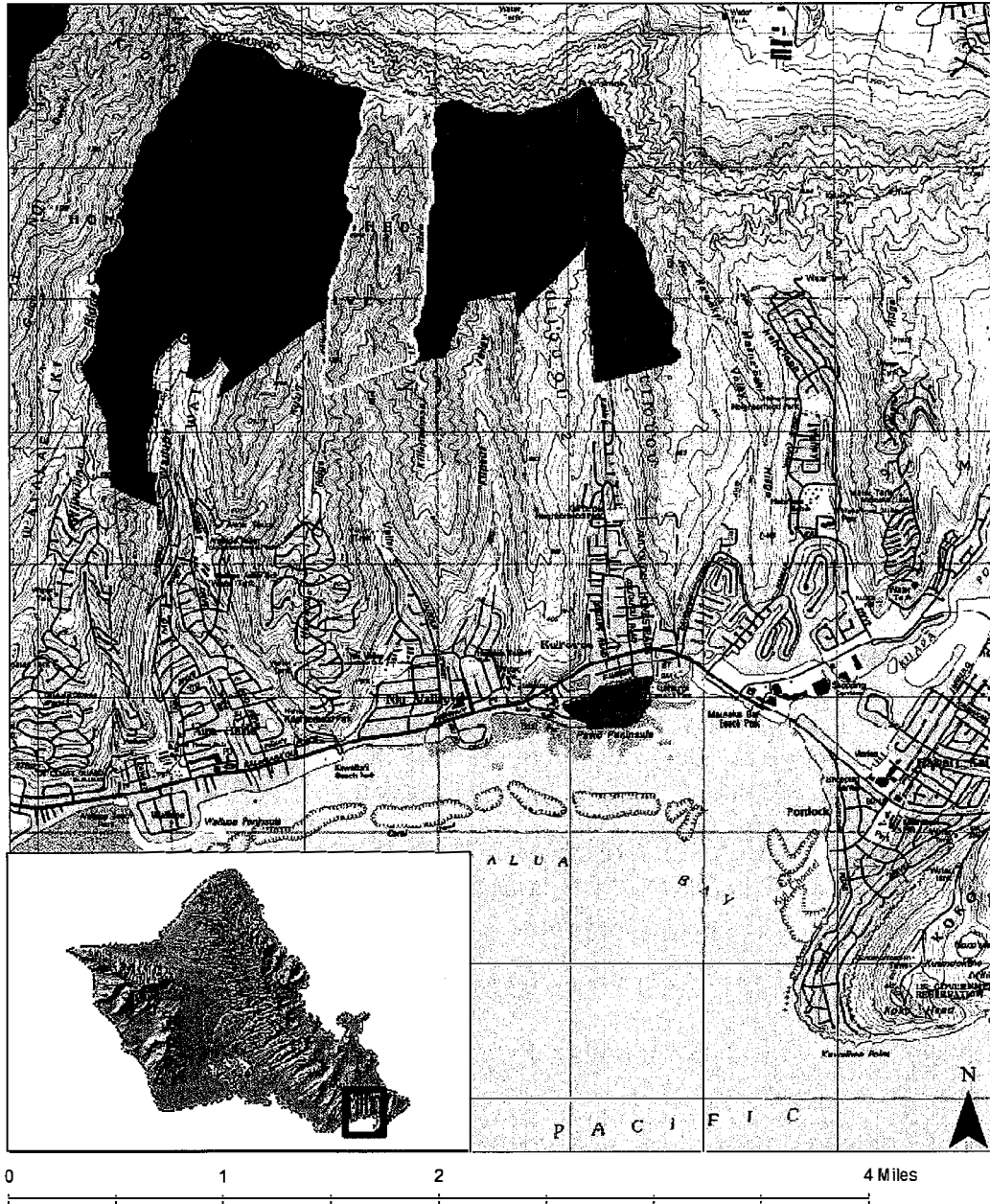
There are records of 29 rare species found in the area or historically known from the area (see Appendix 1). The proposed Reserve falls within Federally-designated Critical Habitat for 17 species.

Geologically, this area is a hanging valley that is less eroded than nearby valleys.

This may explain why there is a higher diversity of native species and fewer weeds.

Pia Valley

- Proposed Pia NAR
- Forest Reserves
- Wildlife Sanctuary



DOFAW (808) 587-4170. September 2018. Features approximate and subject to change.

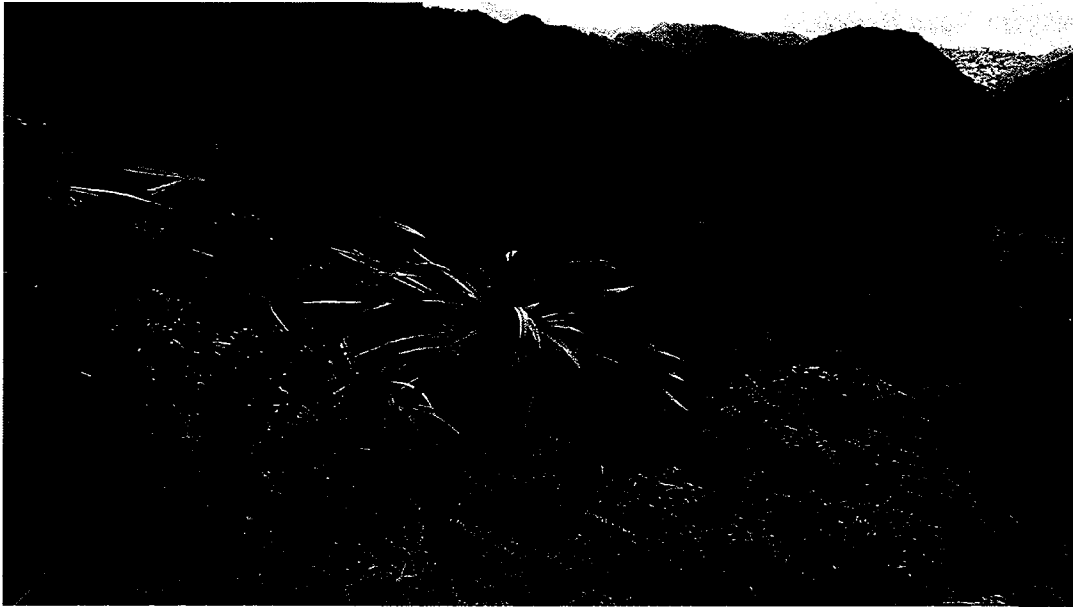


Figure 2: 'Ōhi'a and uluhe-dominated vegetation at the proposed Pia Natural Area Reserve.

III BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Past Land Use, Previous Studies, and Conservation History

For the past few decades, the State has surveyed and collected genetic material from rare species within the proposed Pia NAR. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) implemented 'Elepaio conservation work in Pia over 20 years ago. The Plant Extinction Prevention Program (PEPP) has been carrying out conservation work for 14 species in Pia for approximately ten years. The O'ahu DOFAW Branch Botanist has been collecting genetic material from five rare plant species in Pia. The Snail Extinction Prevention Program (SEPP) has been working with two endangered snail species that occur exclusively in Pia and surveying for two other endangered snail species that are historically known from the area. The last known wild individual of *Achatinella bulimoides* is known from the parcel.

No known aquatic surveys have occurred except for a damselfly survey in the lower reaches of the watershed in 1990. No damselflies were found during that survey (Polhemus, 2006).

Previous management strategies have identified Pia as the best place to fence in the southern Ko'olau mountains (O'ahu Army Natural Resources Program, 2008).

Currently there is no high elevation fence site in the southern Ko'olau mountains that can be used for out-planting and conservation of rare plants, 'Elepaio and snails.

Present Land Use and Access

This undeveloped area is in the Conservation District, Resource subzone. The western boundary of the property roughly follows the Hawai‘i Loa trail (Figure 3), managed by DOFAW’s Na Ala Hele system. Access to the trailhead is provided by the Hawai‘i Loa Ridge Owners Association. Designation of this area as a Natural Area Reserve is anticipated to benefit public access as this area would become public land.

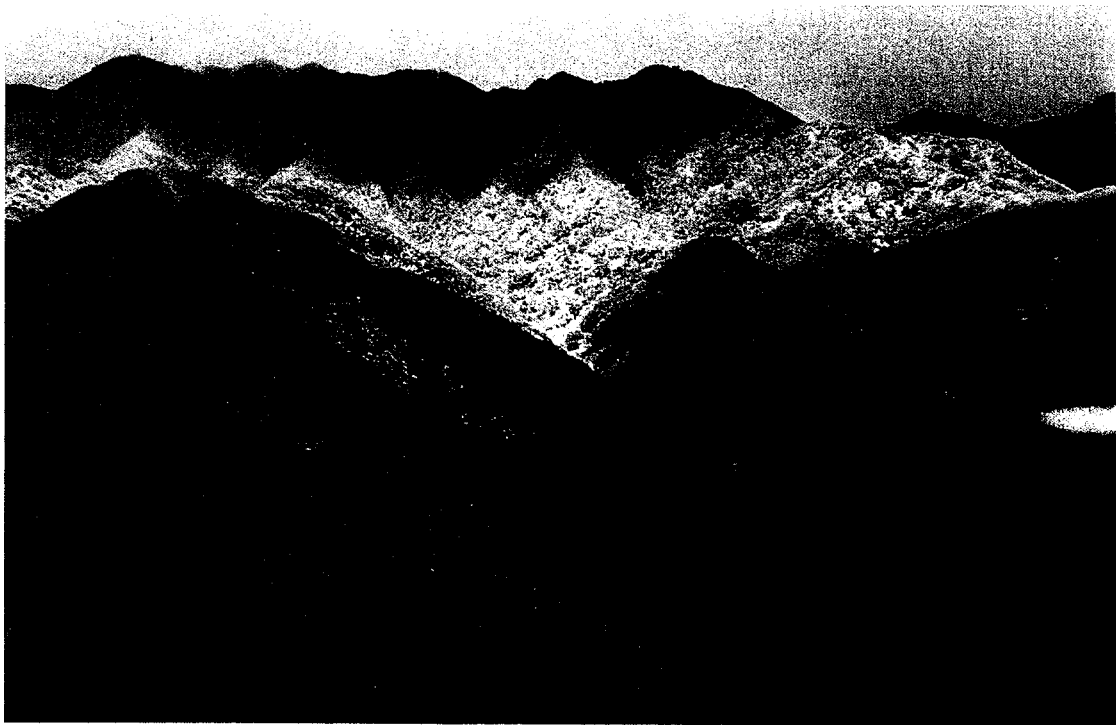


Figure 3: View into the proposed Pia Natural Area Reserve from the Hawai‘i Loa trail.

Cultural/Recreational Uses

The Hawaiian meaning of Pia is "arrowroot, starch". The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is not aware of any surveys of cultural or historical resources in this area. Outside of the proposed Pia NAR, the lowlands of Kuli‘ou‘ou and Niu contain remnants of terraces, bluff shelters near the coastline, fishponds, and burial caves, and the Kulepeamoa heiau (Sterling and Summers, 1978). Pia contains plants and animals that Hawaiians traditionally collect for practical, medicinal, decorative and spiritual uses (Gutmanis, 1979; Krohn, 1978). Some of these plants and animals are considered sacred to certain gods or because they are associated with cultural practices (Kanahele, 1986). Preservation of these species is essential to the continuation of traditional Hawaiian cultural practices.

The main recreational activity is hiking on the popular Hawai'i Loa Ridge trail. Adjacent to the western side of the property is a portion of the Honolulu Watershed Forest Reserve, part of hunting unit D, open to hunting from February to October for feral pigs and goats. Pia is not within a public hunting unit. The amount of poaching, if any, in this area is not known.

IV JUSTIFICATION (Specifics)

Scientific Value

Pia is a biodiversity hotspot and valuable as a location to study critically endangered species, as well as monitor efforts at species conservation.

Representativeness

Pia represents a mesic Ko'olau forest ecosystem. Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 195 established the NARS "to preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the natural flora and fauna, as well as geological sites, of Hawai'i." Currently, no NARS exist in the southern Ko'olau mountains, nor in mesic Ko'olau ecosystems. Finally, the other NARS do not contain many of the rare species found in the proposed Pia NAR.

Natural Communities and their Status

Lower portions of the proposed Reserve have been invaded by *Psidium cattleianum* (Strawberry Guava), which thins out further *mauka* and is only occasionally seen as individual trees at the Ko'olau crest. *Clidemia hirta* (Koster's Curse) is also prevalent in the lower sections. Despite these major threats, as well as the threats posed by less established alien species, a relatively intact native ecosystem remains, especially in the *mauka* regions.

This parcel contains Priority 1 watershed forests, and services the water supplies of the Hawai'i Kai area (DLNR, 2011).

Rarity

Appendix 1 lists the 29 rare plant and wildlife species that have been recorded in the area. Many of these species are only found in Pia, such as *Achatinella Julgens* (Figure 4) and *A. fuscobasis* (Figure 5), two tree snail species, or the *Cyrtandra gracilis* shrub (Figure 6).

The only known O‘ahu population of *Asplenium dielerectum*, a fern (Figure 7), and the only Ko‘olau population of *Labordia cyrtandrae*, a flowering shrub, are found at Pia. Pia also contains the largest population of *Cyanea crispa*, a flowering shrub. The endangered O‘ahu ‘Elepaio bird also is known from this area (Figure 8).

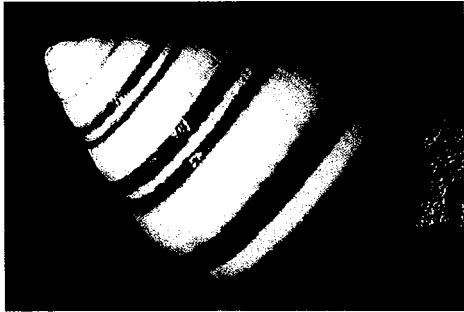


Figure 4: *Achatinella fulgens* (Endangered)

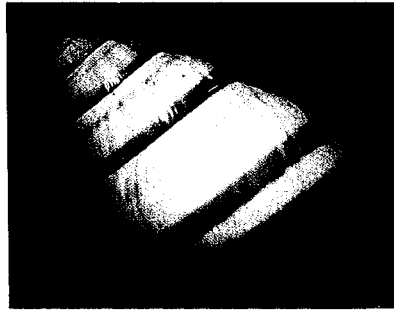


Figure 5: *Achatinella fuscobasis* (Endangered)



Figure 6: *Cyrtandra gracilis* (Endangered)



Figure 7: *Asplenium dielerectum* (Endangered)



Figure 8: O‘ahu ‘Elepaio (Endangered)

Biological/Ecological Design

Designating upper Pia valley as a NAR would create a contiguous band of conservation land from Wiliwilinui ridge to Kuli'ou'ou ridge.

Location and Size

The western boundary of this 300-acre parcel follows the ridge separating Wailupe valley from Pia. The eastern boundary is Kulepeamo ridge, separating Pia from Kupaua valley. The north boundary is the Ko'olau summit crest, and the southern boundary terminates in a straight line at roughly 1200' elevation on the two ridgelines, dropping to 600' elevation at the stream.

Threats (Human/Biological)

High priority threats to Pia ecosystems are invasive plant species and feral pigs. Additionally, rats and predatory invertebrates such as the *Euglandina rosea* threaten the native snail species and native plants.

Present Level of Protection

This area is not within the Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership, a voluntary alliance of landowners and land managers committed to the common value of protecting forested watersheds for water recharge, and other ecosystem services through collaborative management. If designated a NAR, the area would become part of this partnership, and benefit from landscape-scale conservation planning and management.

Long-term Ecological Viability/Environmental Consequences of No Action/Urgency

Designating this important section of lowland mesic forest a NAR would enhance the ability of the System to participate and contribute to conservation and restoration actions across the entire watershed.

As this area has already experienced native species extinctions, and contains many species that are in danger of extinction, it is projected that no management action would lead to eventual loss of additional species.

V. MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Threats Requiring Management

Management priorities include fencing to remove feral pigs, which trample and devour vegetation and spread the seeds of invasive weeds. Removal of invasive plant species is also a very high priority management action. Removing or reducing the amounts of predatory mammals and invertebrates, such as rats and the cannibal snail *Euglandia rosea*, is needed near the existing snail and rare plant populations. Small exclosures may be needed around remaining tree snails. Outplanting will preserve populations of very rare and endangered species. Infrastructure to support management may also be required, including helicopter landing zones, and monitoring equipment.

VI. PUBLIC SUPPORT

*Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals Contacted**

*Interested parties will be notified and a formal public hearing and comment period will occur for this nomination pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 195-4 .

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY /REFERENCES

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Appendix 1 - Rare Species of the Proposed Pia NAR and Vicinity

Type	Taxon	Known from area	Status	Organization /management	Critical Habitat
Snail	<i>Achatinella bulimoides</i>	X	Endangered	SEPP	
Snail	<i>Achatinella cestus*</i>		Endangered	SEPP	
Snail	<i>Achatinella julgens</i>	X	Endangered	SEPP	
Snail	<i>Achatinella fus cobasis</i>	X	Endangered	SEPP	
Snail	<i>Achatinella taeniolata*</i>		Endangered	SEPP	
Bird	<i>Chasiempis sandwichensis ibidis</i>	X	Endangered	DLNR-DOFAW/OANRP	X
Plant	<i>Asplenium dielerectum</i>	X	Endangered	PEPP	
Plant	<i>Bonanea menzeisii</i>	X	Endangered	NEPM	X
Plant	<i>Cyanea acuminata</i>	X	Endangered	OANRP	
Plant	<i>Cyanea crispa</i>	X	Endangered	PEPP	X
Plant	<i>Cyanea grimseiana ssp. grimesiana</i>	X	Endangered	PEPP	X
Plant	<i>Cyanea humboldtiana</i>	X	Endangered	O'ahu Branch Botanist	X
Plant	<i>Cyanea koolauensis</i>	X	Endangered	O'ahu Branch Botanist/OANRP	X
Plant	<i>Cyanea superba ssp. regina</i>	X	Endangered	PEPP	X
Plant	<i>Cyrtandra gracilis</i>	X	Endangered	PEPP	
Plant	<i>Cyrtandra sessilis</i>	X	Endangered	PEPP	
Plant	<i>Deliss ea subcordata</i>	X	Endangered	PEPP	X
Plant	<i>Euphorbia arnottiana</i>	X	No Status		
Plant	<i>Eurya sandwicensis</i>	X	No Status	PEPP	
Plant	<i>Hesperomannia swezeyi</i>	X	Endangered	PEPP	
Plant	<i>Labordia cyrtandrae</i>	X	Endangered	PEPP	
Plant	<i>Lobelia monostachya</i>	X	Endangered	PEPP	X

Plant	<i>Myrsine fosbergii</i>	X	Endangered	O'ahu Branch Botanist	
Plant	<i>Nesoluma polynesianum</i>	X	No Status	ROI (Rare on Island)	
Plant	<i>Nothocestrum longifolium</i>	X	No Status	ROI	
Plant	<i>Polyscias gymnocarpa</i>	X	Endangered	O'ahu Branch Botanist	
Plant	<i>Polyscias lydgatei</i>	X	Endangered	PEPP	
Plant	<i>Platydesma comuta ssp. comuta</i>	X	Endangered	PEPP	
Plant	<i>Pteralyxia macrocarpa</i>	X	Endangered	O'ahu Branch Botanist	
Plant	<i>Sanicula purpurea</i>	X	Endangered	PEPP	
Plant	<i>Zanthoxylum oahuense</i>	X	Endangered	PEPP	
Plant	<i>Chamaesyce celastroides</i> var. <i>kaenana</i>		Endangered	NEPM	X
Plant	<i>Cyanea st.-johnii</i>		Endangered	NEPM	X
Plant	<i>Cyrtandra polyantha</i>		Endangered	NEPM	X
Plant	<i>Diellia erecta</i>		Endangered	NEPM	X
Plant	<i>Hedyotis coriacea</i>		Endangered	NEPM	X
Plant	<i>Isodendron laurifolium</i>		Endangered	NEPM	X
Plant	<i>Lobelia oahuensis</i>		Endangered	NEPM	X
Plant	<i>Tetraplasandra gymnocarpa</i>		Endangered	NEPM	X

*Species only known historically, not found recently in area.

PEPP: Plant Extinction Prevention

Program SEPP: Snail Extinction

Prevention Program

O'ahu Branch: O'ahu Branch of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife

(DOFAW) NEPM: Native Ecosystem Protection and Management section of

DOFAW OANRP: O'ahu Army Natural Resources Program

PROPOSAL FOR THE EXTENSION OF KA'ENA POINT NATURAL AREA RESERVE

February 16, 2021

I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A 0.75-acre parcel is proposed to be added to the Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve (NAR). Designation of this area as a NAR is meant to protect and help restore a larger wilderness area. This area was generously donated by the Tom family with acquisition assistance and funding from the North Shore Community Land Trust.

II INTRODUCTION (General)

Ka'ena Point has significant biological, historical, cultural, and geological values. Since the NAR was established in 1983, significant recovery of native vegetation and wildlife has occurred. Management by the NARS has also protected important historical, cultural, and geological features from damage from vehicles. NARS has also increased awareness and educational opportunities in this area. The nominated parcel is adjacent to the NAR and the Ka'ena Point State Park Reserve and contains many of these important features and potential for recovery.

Priority threats to these resources are off-road vehicular use, invasive species, and illegal human activities.

III BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Past and Present Land Use and Conservation History

The project area is one of the last relatively wild areas on O'ahu and has been valued as a natural escape from the pressures of urban life. Ka'ena Point NAR is accessible to the public by foot or bicycle, and its primary uses include recreation, hiking, nature study, education, and the observation of wildlife. Shore fishing, spear fishing, and gathering of marine resources have traditionally been important uses of the Ka'ena coast.

This parcel is located in the Resource Subzone of the Conservation District and within the County Special Management Area. This parcel may have been used by small villages that populated Ka'ena Point in the 1800s and early 1900s, and affected by the railway constructed mauka of the parcel in 1898 to service sugarcane operations and active military use in Ka'ena Point for coastal defense after World War I through World War II. Military use declined after World War II and the railway ceased operation in 1947. In 1971, the State Department of Transportation developed plans for a two-lane paved road around Ka'ena Point that would pass nearby the subject parcel. Due to significant opposition from the public, the concept was withdrawn. However, every so often, the idea of a road connecting the North Shore and Wai'anae coast through Ka'ena is raised again at the Legislature, most recently in 2000 (SCR 160). Continued public opposition, combined with the estimated high cost of the project, has

prevented the road from becoming a high transportation priority.

During the 1970s, the State began to purchase lands in the area for a proposed Ka'ena Point State Park. In 1978, a Ka'ena Point State Park Conceptual Plan was completed. Ka'ena Point NAR was established in 1983, by Executive Order 3162, to protect a portion of the most extensive remnant dune system on O'ahu from damage and degradation caused by off-road vehicle use, erosion, and the spread of invasive species. At the time the NAR was created, these factors had largely destroyed most of the native vegetation within the NAR, making it unsuitable for use by nesting seabirds. After the establishment of the NAR, vehicular access to most of the reserve was blocked, and recovery of native vegetation has been significant, with increasing numbers of endangered plants such as 'ohai (*Sesbania tomentosa*) and recovery of the rare coastal naupaka (*Scaevola sericea*) community.

As the coastal habitat has improved, and predator control has been initiated, increasing numbers of 'ua'u kani, or wedge-tailed shearwaters (*Puffinus pacificus*), and Laysan albatrosses, or mōlī (*Phoebastria immutabilis*), began to breed in the NAR. Wedge-tailed shearwater chicks hatching at Ka'ena have increased in number from zero in 1995 to over 1,500 in 2007. Laysan albatross alone have increased from zero pairs in 1989 to approximately 60 nesting pairs in 2007. The reserve also acts as refuge for the endangered Hawaiian monk seal or 'īlioholoikauaia (*Monachus schauinslandi*), and honu or green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), koholā or humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), and nai'a or spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*) are often viewed just offshore.

The parcel nominated as a NAR extension is approximately 1,450 feet east of the boulder barricade on the Mokuleia side of the NAR. It contains a small cove that is popular for fishers and beachgoers. The beach dunes in this parcel have the potential for restoration demonstrated in the areas protected by the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS).

Cultural and Historical Significance

This parcel is part of the culturally and historically significant landscape of Ka'ena Point. The relationship in Native Hawaiian culture between the people and Ka'ena Point is demonstrated through traditional mele (songs), pule (prayer chants), genealogical records, and stories that celebrate the qualities and features of Ka'ena, and through the strong attachments of kama'āina to ancestral homelands. A description of the rich and significant cultural and historical significance of this area is outside the scope of this nomination, however DLNR has created and distributed more detailed archeological, cultural, and historical assessments of Ka'ena Point and vicinity. These include stories and place name meanings that provide invaluable information about Ka'ena and connect historic events with present use, with descriptions of such features as the Ka'ena Complex including the Leina ka 'Uthane, which is approximately 1,500 feet to the west of the subject parcel. One resource is a 2009 cultural impact assessment for the Ka'ena

Point Ecosystem Restoration project which summarizes the archaeological, cultural, and historical resources found at Ka'ena Point.¹

In addition to being part of the culturally and historically significant landscape of Ka'ena, this parcel contains coves and tidal areas that may have been canoe landing and salt collecting sites. A small portion of this area also contains sand dunes and sandy soils in which subsurface cultural deposits and burials are a high probability. This parcel may also have been part of several small fishing villages are thought to have existed in the area during the 1860s and 70s. A settlement called Nēnēle'a is documented as being about a mile east of Ka'ena Point, and several house foundations, measuring 14 x 20 feet, are documented from nearby areas. An 1832 census listed the population of the Ka'ena ahupua'a at forty-nine individuals. Based on the known fishing shrines, recorded interviews, and the number of stories, fishing was an important activity. Ka'ena is noted as an excellent fishing ground, and as mentioned before, this parcel continues to be used for fishing. Based on historic accounts and recorded traditions, there may be additional as-yet unidentified historic properties at Ka'ena Point and would most likely reflect uses and customs associated with the area's rich fisheries and the lack of any other dominant land use in this waterless hot area. These could include additional ko'a, the remnants of shelters and settlements for fishermen, burials, canoe landings, and salt-making sites.

The parcel and vicinity also contain part of the original train track of the former O'ahu Railway and Land Company (OR&L) railway. Completed in 1898, the railway connected Honolulu to Kahuku, via Wai'anae and Waialua. It was meant to serve plantation towns and ranches, but also became a scenic tour. Railway service ended and the railway was abandoned in 1947, after damage by a 1946 tsunami and a decline in railroad use caused by the increase of personal vehicles. Today, the railway bed forms the primary path used by visitors hiking out to the Point.

IV JUSTIFICATION (Specifics)

Scientific Value and Natural Communities and their Status

The inclusion of this area into the NARS is meant to expand protection to a coastal ecosystem. This type of ecosystem merits conservation and restoration effort because coastal areas have been severely modified by invasive species and human activity and development in Hawaii. Management and protection under NARS has resulted in widespread recovery of the coastal ecosystem nearby, which could occur in this parcel and surrounding areas if similarly protected.

A description of the scientific value of the entire Ka'ena Point area is beyond the scope of this document, however is available from various sources, including the Environmental Assessment for the Ka'ena Point Ecosystem Restoration Project. This description will focus on the resources currently found in the nominated parcel.

¹ Visit <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/ecosystems/nars/oahu/kaena/> and click on "Final Environmental Assessment." Paper copies of this 432-page document are available by request to the Natural Area Reserves System Enhancement Coordinator at the Division of Forestry and Wildlife at (808) 587-4170.

The parcel contains shoreward basalt benches with numerous tidepools and a diverse intertidal flora and fauna, rare coastal sand dune communities. Offshore from this parcel is habitat for reef and pelagic fish, sea turtles, seabirds, and cetaceans.

The parcel contains a beach which is used as a resting area for the endangered Hawaiian monk seal or 'Ōiōhōlōkauāua (*Monachus schauinslandi*), and likely the honu or green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*).

The rest of the parcel is predominantly fossilized coral reefs. These emerged reefs are generally formed during interglacial sea level highstands and contain giant mollusks and coral heads and is about 130,000 years old. Soils in the area are primarily characterized as beach and as rock lands. The fossilized coral reef area grades into coastal sand dunes which contain the naupaka (*Scaevola sericea*) community.

Representativeness and Rarity

A unique feature of this parcel is the cove, a relatively protected beach that is an important resting area for rare marine vertebrates. This area also is also potential habitat for the rare plant and animals species found at Ka'ena Point if it was similarly managed as the NAR.

Biological/Ecological Design

This small parcel lies between the Ka'ena Point State Park Reserve and areas approved by the BLNR as the Ka'ena Point NAR. The NARS Commission has indicated that it would be beneficial for Reserves to be adjacent to areas currently managed for conservation so that management activities could be leveraged. Additionally, the cove provides a natural location for controlling off-road vehicular damage from vehicles proceeding west from Mokuleia toward the point, consistent with Hawaii Revised Statutes § 195-12.

Location and Size

The parcel is approximately ¾-acres on the northeastern tip of the Ka'ena Point NAR, identified by TMK 6-9-02:12. It is approximately 2 miles from the end the paved road at the end of the State Highway 930 (Farrington Highway). It is approximately 1,450 feet east of the boulder barricade at Ka'ena Point.

Threats (Human/Biological)

High priority threats to this ecosystem include invasive predatory mammals, invertebrates, plants, and human misuse.

Predators such as rats (*Rattus* spp.), dogs (*Canis familiaris*), cats (*Felis catus*), mice (*Mus musculus*), and mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*) not only kill native seabirds, but also harass monk seals. Observations from Hawaii and around the world have shown that rats will eat seabird eggs and chicks, and even attack adult birds. Rodents also consume native seeds and plants. Predators also act as carriers of leptospirosis, morbilli virus (distemper), and toxoplasmosis. The recently published Recovery Plan for the Hawaiian Monk Seal identifies the transfer of these diseases as one of the threats to monk seal survival. Another applicable threat listed in the recovery plan is human disturbance from fishing interactions or on popular beaches.

Invasive invertebrates such as alien ants also threaten coastal arthropods, plants, and seabirds, and have the potential to spread ant-pollinated invasive species (Warshauer, et. al, 2008).

While the area is predominantly unvegetated, invasive plant species threaten the native coastal community at this area, such as Kiawe (*Prosopis padilla*), *Verbesina encelioides*, Australian saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata*) and Haole Koa (*Leucaena leucocephala*).

Major threats from human misuse include damage to the cultural and biological values of the sand dunes by off-road vehicles. Additionally, this area is threatened by littering, disturbance of protected marine mammals, and igniting fires. Fires ignited by vandals have recently destroyed adjacent areas and rare plant species.

Present Level of Protection and Long-term Ecological Viability

This area is currently within the County Special Management Area and Resource Subzone of the Conservation District. It is also surrounded by the Ka'ena Point Stewardship Area, which was identified by the DLNR to focus a unified management approach to protecting the historical, cultural, and biological integrity of the north coast of Ka'ena Point. Management of the surrounding area benefits the natural resources of the nominated parcel, however it is subject to the threats common to the larger State Park Reserve and NAR areas that are accessible to vehicles. Further degradation of this area is likely without protection, however dramatic recovery is possible as shown by adjacent areas at Ka'ena Point.

Environmental Consequences of No Action/Urgency

Designating this area a NAR would enhance the ability of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to participate and contribute to conservation and restoration actions across the entire coastline.

As this area has already experienced the local extirpation of native species and contains species that are in danger of extinction, it is projected that no management action would result in additional loss.

V. MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Threats Requiring Management

Reducing and/or eliminating invasive species and illegal human activities are the highest management priorities for this parcel.

VI. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals Contacted

Interested parties will be notified and a formal public hearing and comment period will occur for this nomination pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes § 195-4.

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES

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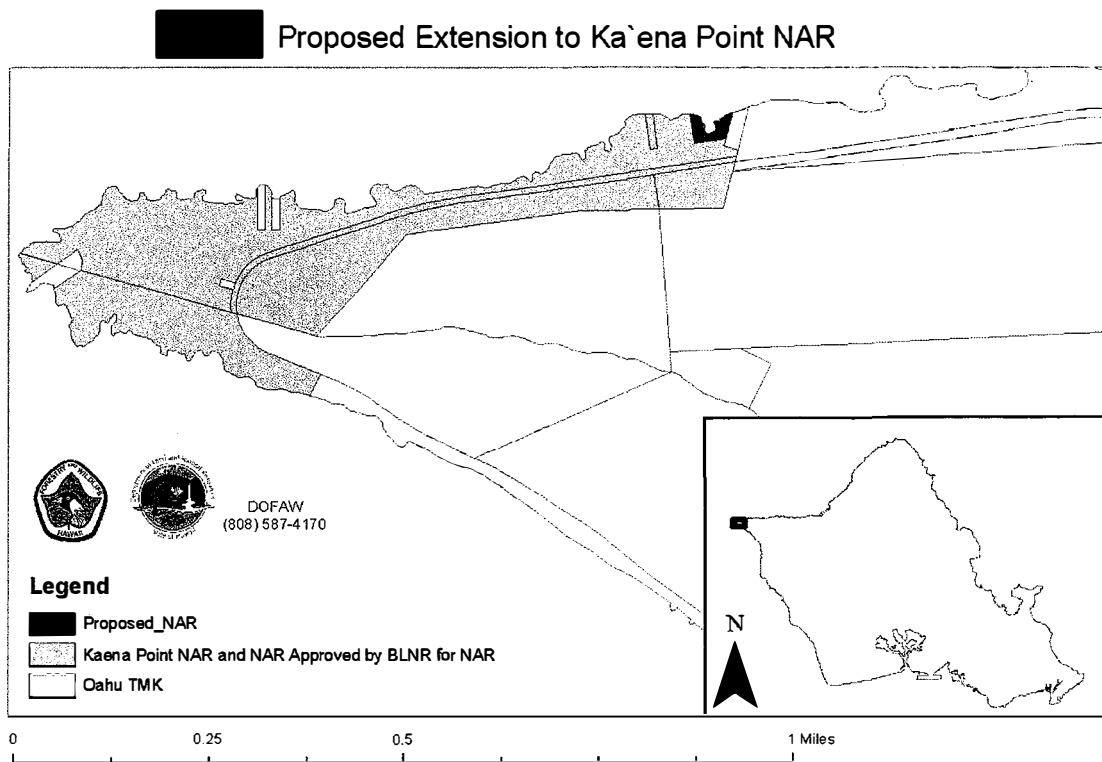
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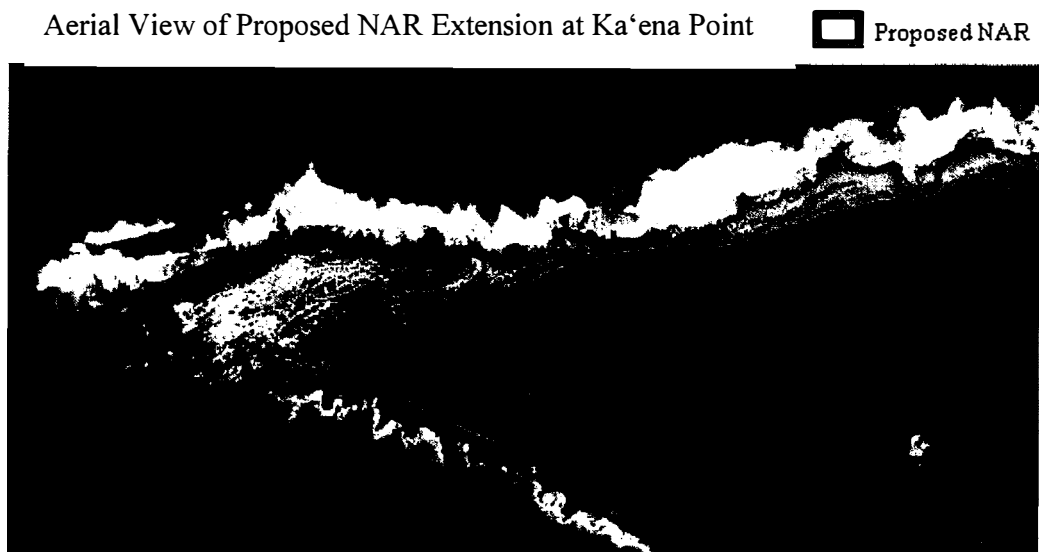
Warshauer, R., J. Jacobi, J. Price. 2008. Native Coastal Flora and Plant Communities in Hawaii: Their Composition, Distribution, and Status. Hawaii Cooperative Studies Unit, University of Hawaii at Hilo.

Experts Consulted:

McEldowney, Holly, 2011. DLNR Division of State Parks. Personal Communication.




Aerial View of Proposed NAR Extension at Ka'ena Point

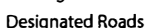


Designated Roads and Parking Areas Adjacent to Proposed NAR


The proposed NAR (outlined in red) is approximately 1/4 mile from the vehicular barrier at the left of the map.

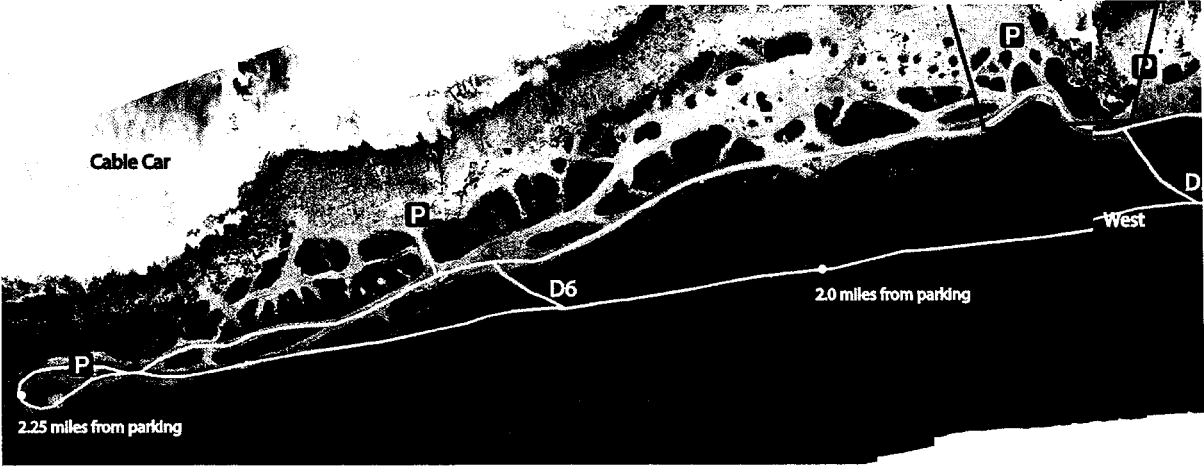
MAP LEGEND

 Parking Areas

 Designated Roads

Cove
(Proposed NAR)







Cove and beach in proposed NAR Extension, facing north.
Photo: T. Takahama.

Attachment 3

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

April 20, 2021

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: MASTER'S REPORT ON PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Ch. 195, HRS, a Notice of Public Hearing was published in the Honolulu Star Advertiser newspaper on February 22, 2021, meeting the legal requirement of publication at least twenty days in advance of the public hearing. A notice of the public hearing was also sent to various agencies and organizations identified as having an interest in the subject area. As authorized by the Board of Land and Natural Resources, I have conducted a public hearing relative to the set aside of approximately 300 acres as the Pia Natural Area Reserve, TMK (1) 3- 7-003:003, east Honolulu, Oahu and the addition of a .75 parcel to the Kaena NAR, TMK (1) 6-9-002:012. The hearing was held virtually via Zoom on March 25, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

A presentation on the proposed Natural Area Reserve was provided by Chris Miller, Oahu Branch NEPM Section Manager. After the presentation, the floor was opened to public testimony in the order provided in the sign-up sheet.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Patricia Godfrey: Aloha, I would just like to go on record as being whole heartedly for this recommendation that these two lands be taken in by the state. I would also like to add that I feel like the little cove is brilliant idea because of the bad things that have been happening at that end. With as much as we can possibly save of any of the lands on any of the islands, any of the places on the planet is something we need to do right now. As much as we possibly can we should find more. If there is anything we can do I'd like to have some guidance. I had notes but I lost them. I approve of all this, I think the Tom family should get a salute, a shoreline donation is amazing, and I wish you well. Good luck.

After Ms. Godfrey's testimony there was a question in chat.

Chris Miller: Let me answer **Arlene's** question. Will these presentations be available to the public for review prior to the close of the testimony acceptance period? Andrew can you answer that?

Andrew Taylor: On the DOFAW webpage there is a public notice announcement on the home screen. It is one of the slides in the slide show section. That announcement has a brief summary of the two NARs in question as well as links at the bottom to the proposals. Those proposals will have a lot more detail on Pia and Kaena. If you are talking about the presentation that was just given, I can email you a copy of the presentation as well.

Moana Bjur: We are giving actual written testimony, we have mailed it in, but I would like to do two things. One I would like to thank Mrs. Godfrey for her donation, as well as the Tom family. I am a board member of the National [?] and Land Trust so when that came across our table, we were 110% percent behind it. We are so glad to see this come to fruition and that the parcels are potential areas for Natural Area Reserves. We would like to fully support that these parcels be placed under the NARS designation and would like to also be kept abreast in ways that we can support potential issues, such as Patricia's question on funding issues that may come up, and work that may need to be done. We have a more detailed written testimony that you should be receiving any day.

After the testimonies were complete, there were several questions from audience members in the chat.

Chris Miller: *Question from Ms. Godfrey. Have you got funding for all this work?* So, a lot of the proposed actions fall under the suite of general actions we partake in. I would say we don't have funding to do all the work. For example, if we were to build ungulate protection fence, it would require CIP funding which will be in the works, but we don't have that at this time. There is a lot of staff motivation to get out to Pia and we have authorization to start NAR type management already. We have been doing rare plant work in the valley over the last decade, but they are going to wrap things up as we move into the NAR.

Chris Miller: No name for this question, *So, honest fishermen won't have access beyond the yellow gate?* I'm not sure what you mean beyond the yellow gate. Can you verbalize to clear it up? I'm not sure which gate you are talking about. (In chat) *The yellow combo gate from the parking lot.* So, I don't think there is going to be any changes to the way the gate is run. The gate is not run by DOFAW. It's actually run by state parks so this hearing has no bearing on how the gate is run to get into the state park preserve which would also give you access near the parcel. The parcel is pretty small, so it is actually far from the road. I don't think there will be any barrier to fishermen who want to fish there.

Troy Maeda (in chat): If approved will the access rights for Kaena point extension be the same as the access rights for foot traffic in the sanctuary?

Chris Miller: So I am not totally clear on what you are asking. If you are talking about the NAR at Kaena Point, this would be treated similarly, this Parcel. We don't restrict access to the public in the Natural Area Reserve. Hopefully that answered your question.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm after providing the public a description of how to send in additional testimony and the process for decision making on the set aside.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Miller', written in a cursive style.

Chris Miller,
Oahu Branch NEPM Section Manager

Written Testimony

Subject: [EXTERNAL] EXPANSION/ADDITION TO NATURAL AREA RESERVE SYSTEM ON O'AHU - Testimony in support of

Aloha Emma –

At our North Shore Neighborhood Board #27 mee ng last night, Adam Borrello from the North Shore Community Land Trust gave us an update on the expansion of the NARS at Kaena. The Board unanimously supported the expansion. Please share this with Chair Cases and the Land Board.

Mahalo,

Kathleen

Ai emma yuen my name is earl mard
im writing to you today about moving the gate
in Kaena Pt state park. I've been fishing in
Kaena Pt for over 50 year's, there's only so
many good place's to fish in there and by moving
the gate more to the Hale'iwa side, we would
lose vehicle access to those area's. Im
also going to write to my congressman, and tell
him why are the State spending all of that
money on a gate, when they could spend it on
education, and other important thing's.

Mahalo
Earl

Aloha,

My name is Jaren Luke and I am OPPOSED to the proposal to expand the Kaena Point Natural Reserve Area. I am a holder of the permit to drive in and use the Kaena Point area. This permit allows me to access the area by vehicle to go fishing. The expansion of this area would greatly restrict convenient access to the area for myself and many other fishermen and future fishermen. I ask you to please disregard the expansion proposal and the current program/area in place is more than sufficient.

Mahalo,
Jaren Luke

Aloha,

Fishing and diving should be allowed there with the self monitoring of clean up and a yearly fee. Off road recreational use should not be allowed there and only to transit to areas designated for fishing.

Jared Domingo

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposal for the extension of Ka'ena Point NAR

Aloha, my name is Kawika Benz. I grow up on the north shore of Oahu and I am a native Hawaiian. I have been going out to Ka'ena for the past 30 years. As a young keiki, I got experience the beauty that Ka'ena has to offer. I would like to be able too take my son and show him what Ka'ena is all about. Each year that goes by, we are losing public fishing areas island wide. Right now most of our fishing spots in Ka'ena are already limited because of the boulders that the state has put out. Plus with the increasing amount of fisherman coming in, this project would take away more fishing spots. Areas where we can go and spend the night fishing within our Ohana. The state has already taken away vehicle access to some of the prime fishing spots in the reserve. We as fisherman and taxpayers, are afraid that they will eventually take all of it away from the fisherman. I feel that the current NAR has enough area for the native Hawaiian seabirds and the Hawaiian Monk seal. As far as the predators such as Dogs, cats and rats, I don't see or hear of any those predators creating a problem for the seals and birds.

Thank you and Aloha for your time,

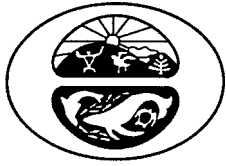
Kawika Benz

From: Mitchell Villarreal

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ka'ena point NAR testimony

This is in regards to Ka'ena point I would like to say my testimony In hopes that you guys put the fishing community's concerns in to consideration. I would like to start by saying I stand behind and appreciate everything you guys do to protect wild life in and around the NAR. I agree things are getting bad and would like to see a change but it should not effect honest fisherman like myself and a lot of other people I know as well. I spend hours cleaning up after myself and the bad apples that enter Ka'ena point to enjoy the beauty it holds. There are a lot of good people that will do everything we can to keep our rights to fish in there. I think cracking down on the illegal activities should be a main focus instead of totally stopping all fisherman. The people who fly there drones in there to take there lines out further is the biggest problem as they leave hundreds of yards of line and then if there lines cut it tangles the reef and eventually seals and turtles and other wild life as well. There is a lot of honest people that want these guys out of there. There is big signs saying drones are prohibited but they do not listen because the DLNR does nothing about it. I've called many of times to report illegal doings but never got a response. I spoke to a DLNR officer myself in person and he told me there is only 11 officers on duty and they do not work at nights and night is when most of these guys are In there flying the drones. The hikers do not help the birds as well as I have to constantly yell at tourists hikers for sneaking up to birds nest for pictures laughs and giggles witch I find very disturbing. There is no one there to control what goes on. The lady that works there is mean and doesn't do a good job in educating these people. I would honestly volunteer to help secure the place on the weekends to help as much as possible that's how much I love it there. I started going there as a kid and I am now 30 so restricting access would hurt me and other honest fisherman in so many ways. I came up with a good plan that would work. I think it should be 100% closed to everyone only way in is with a permit like any other state camp grounds. That way only permitted people for each camp site will be in there and that person is noted on paper and responsible for there mess and wrong doing. I ask you please do not close it to honest people like myself but instead make things a lot stricter to keep those drone fisherman out because they are a huge problem island wide they take a lot of fish and it is not a real fishing method and it doesn't show any sustainability to the future generation and it's sad. The drones are a big problem.

Sent from my iPhone



**Conservation
Council for
Hawaii**

**Hawai'i's voice for wildlife
Kō Hawai'i o nā holoholona lōhiu**

March 26, 2021

Department of Land and Natural Resources
DOFAW
1151 Punchbowl Street, RM 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
ATTN: Emma Yuen

Aloha Ms. Yuen,

Conservation Council For Hawaii supports the expansion of the Natural Area Reserves (NAR) on Oahu to include approximately 300 acres in Pia Valley and a three quarter of an acre parcel at Kaena Point both donated to DLNR/DOFAW.

Pia Valley plays an important role in Hawaii's biosecurity, housing several extremely rare plant and animal species. This area is also pertinent to the health of our islands watershed, maintaining this native forest land is crucial to providing fresh water for our island residents and protecting our beaches and reefs from erosion.

Kaena Point is a vital coastal ecosystem supporting Hawaiian Monk Seals, Laysan Albatross, and Wedge-Tailed Shearwaters, and several native plant species that face the perils of mongoose and feral cats. To include this parcel in the NARS will allow for better protection of these species and the restoration of coastal dunes to combat erosion.

Mahalo Nui,

Moana Bjur

Moana Bjur
Executive Director

Aloha Kakou

My name is Patricia Godfrey, and I was born and raised in these islands.

I would like to put on record that I am whole heartedly in favor of setting aside these two parcels of land .

I support the members of the state of Hawaii natural area reserve team who work continually, alongside private and public land owners, for this purpose. The donation of the Kaena shoreline parcel by the Tom family working with the land trust is a perfect example of public

/private effort and generosity. Reserving land for the sole use of plant and animal species will allow their as yet unknowable benefits to

evolve and to also stabilize what damage has been caused to native wildlife and their systems of living by over-consumption of resources.

As well as for reasons of habitat rescue, I support the setting aside of the important area of shoreline, because of the threats of vandalism and animal injury that have plagued the Ka'ena area.

I understand that creating "no-go" areas causes resentment in some places; perhaps "slow-go" could be a new designation. The camping permit process is accepted by most people, and so perhaps might be a permit to visit the natural areas be instituted.

As we know, these islands have lost more of their native wildlife, both flora and fauna, than any other place in the world, and if only for this reason, I support this effort, as should we all.

Mahalo a me ola mau na moku, ola mau ka honua.

--

Patricia Salisbury Godfrey

Current writing projects: *The Lucy Letters*, historical archive

University of California Berkeley Editing Certified Editor

Member American Copy Editors Association (ACES), Editorial Freelancer's Association (EFA), Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI).

To: Emma Yuen, Statewide Program Manager, Native Ecosystems Protection and Management Program

From: Patrick Conant, Retired Entomologist, Hawaii State Dept of Agriculture,
Former NARS Commissioner
Sheila Conant, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Dept of Biology, UHM,
Former NARS Commissioner

Subject: Testimony in favor of Adding Tom Family Parcel to Kaena Pt. NAR

We are very much in support of the addition of the donated parcel from the Tom family to NARS. Even though the parcel seems small, it is strategically located where it can be part of a barrier to unauthorized motor vehicles that have caused extensive damage to native plant cover in the past. Also, the small cove on that property provides a spot for turtles and monk seals to haul out and rest. Lastly, as stated in the Proposal, "No management action" would result in more damage to the native plant community that has barely persisted there. Restoration efforts could then include the new addition.

From: Patrick Rorie

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments regarding Kaena Point NAR and the new Pia Valley NAR

Hi Emma,

The following are comments regarding the expansion of the Kaena Point NAR and the addition of the Pia Valley NAR.

Kaena Point NAR Expansion

By all means, the Kaena Point NAR should be expanded to include the property being donated by the private landowner. The only concern is how much is the private landowner asking? As you know, the State has a severe budget shortfall. The State has way higher priorities than purchasing land to expand the Kaena Point NAR. Now if the private land owner is giving the land away, by all means expand the Kaena Point NAR to include this land.

A new NAR - Pia Valley

The main concern here is fencing. Will the popular Hawaii Loa Ridge Trail be fenced (along with the Koolau Summit to the south of the Hawaii Loa Ridge Trail) in order to enclose this new NAR from ungulates? I'm strongly against this. Once again, to spend millions of dollars on fencing materials when the State has much higher priorities just doesn't make sense. Either wait until a better State budget situation, or, better yet, just send hunters up there to exterminate the pig population in this new NAR. If fencing must be done, then keep it off of the Hawaii Loa Ridge Trail and off of the Koolau Summit.

Other concerns...

Na Pali Coast goat hunting

With restricted access to Haena on Kauai due to the Kuhio Hwy landslide, will goat hunters receive access to the Na Pali Coast in the coming 3 months to thin out the goat population?

Removal of middle fences between Castle and Poamoho trails

Is it possible to remove the middle fences on the Koolau Summit between Castle Trail and Poamoho Trail? A perimeter fence now exists that surrounds the entire Koolau Summit in that area which effectively keeps ungulates from entering the Kaluanui NAR and Opaepa Preserve. The Koolau Summit Trail could then be restored, thus keeping hikers from grabbing onto the fence as they make their way through that area.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Most sincerely and with Aloha,

Patrick Rorie (Oahu resident for over 30 years, taxpayer, voter and user of the hiking trails)

Thank you, Emma.

After giving it more thought, please include as an addendum the following comments...

"Patrick Rorie is strongly against any new NARS. The State of Hawaii NAR technicians have plenty of land to manage at this point and another NAR will almost certainly involve more fencing."

Most Sincerely and with Aloha,

Pat

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kaena point NAR testimony

Aloha,

I am writing my testimony for kaena point NAR extension.

As a fisherman and animal lover, I feel that the sanctuary is good as it's needs to be. As a fisherman of kaena point all my life the landmark has changed. Now with the NAR extension possibly going into effect it will make it hard for many people to walk in to kaena point. Due to the littering of unwanted material for the albatross in understandable. We do ask if their can be some kind of half way point where a beach/shoreline access can be made for fisherman to access the shoreline to fish to provide food for our Ohana. There are many elderly men and women that love to fish at kaena point, sit, talk and enjoy the ocean. We are not asking for the whole point but a nice spot where people of my culture and fishing can go to fish. I teach my keikis as my father and elders have to clean up after ourselves and pick up any opala we see with in a 10-20 ft radius. Many other fisherman do as I do and we do speak out to those that start bon fires, leave their rubbish, or disturb the bird to leave or the cops will be called. We treat kaena point with aloha as if it was our back yard.

So we please ask for some kind of half way mark to meet everyone needs (including the birds)

Mahalos

Shane

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to expand the natural area at Ka'ena Point

Hi Emma,

My name is Shemnon Miyamoto. I am local fisherman, father, and native Hawaiian. As a boy I grew hiking out to the end of Ka'ena Point and spent memorable days fishing there with my father. I would like to pass these same memories on to my son when he grows older. The proposed expansion of the natural area would not allow this. For this reason I am opposed to this proposed change. Please do what is necessary to protect the fishing and gathering rights of Hawaii's fisherman. Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,

Shemnon Miyamoto

From: Terrance Canaday

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kaena point testimony

Aloha,

I want to start off by saying we the fishermen do appreciate the efforts of change DLNR has been doing to preserve Kaena points natural beauty, a few years ago when DLNR and the state pushed to install a gate and lock at Kaena point, we over came great obstacles and understandings from both parties. And since then we all can agree that Kaena points plants has been flourishing. As fishermen we understand 100% what happen on land directly affects what's in our waters.

When we went through this process with the state and DLNR years ago we all agreed as a community and literally walked through Kaena point together to designate fishing/ parking spots. We upheld our end of the deal and went with it. we got all our vehicles permitted and allowed you guys to close Kaena point off to us for months at a time "for poor road conditions" and yet here we are again fighting to keep some of our few fishing areas available for us to access easily. We can both agree there are a few bad apples that don't care as much as others, like people who drone, go 4wheeling and people who hike in Kaena with their dogs. I have along with many others have reported this activity with do care officers and even talked to officers in person at the gate and told them "there's people in there right now that don't have permits and watched multiple tour busses drop off people at the gate just now are you guys going to do something about this" officers response was "listen I have three kids two of which are great people one is a bad apple, Brada no matter what we do always going have people that does bad" as a person who literally loves Kaena point an tries to be at every meeting to protect our native gathering rights to hear an officer who is suppose to help protect Kaena is really disheartening.

If we allow you guys to expand the sanctuary what is stopping you guys from taking away our access all together. In the beginning of Kaena point I literally watched the lady's that are the care takers put boulders on the ocean side road. "To stop erosion" it's a designated road with a sign and all! We the fisherman understand the end goal is to keep Kaena point as natural as possible, but having tour busses drop people off and do tours all day aren't helping the situation and the absolute lack of officers out at Kaena is ridiculous. Also when the gate is closed off to the public but yet while I'm fishing near the parking lot I see multiple people in vehicles (4runners) enter isn't a good look I've seen this happen many times lately while the road is closed for poor road conditions... Standing at the gate checking for permits isn't gonna do anything when they can't see what the bad apples are doing. I strongly oppose of the expansion!

Mahalo!

Terrance C.

19 March 2021

To: Emma Yuen, Statewide Program Manager, Native Ecosystems Protection and Management Program

From: Patrick Conant, Retired Entomologist, Hawaii State Dept of Agriculture,
Former NARS Commissioner
Sheila Conant, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Dept of Biology, UHM,
Former NARS Commissioner

Subject: Testimony in favor of adding Pia Valley to NARS

I (PC) hiked Hawaii Loa Ridge to the Ko'olau Summit several times when I used to live on Oahu. Little did I know that Pia Valley right below to the East still had such amazing native biodiversity as documented in the Proposal!

Even on the Big island, huge tracts of mesic native forest have been destroyed by cattle, sheep, goats and pigs, and housing developments. We need to be more proactive in protecting these pockets of native biodiversity before they are gone. We now have the opportunity to do just that in Pia Valley. It is not a large parcel, but that is even more reason to protect it. Smaller parcels are easier to manage more intensively but have more negative "edge effects" due to the long boundaries. This parcel will need to be managed well, especially to keep weeds and pigs out.

We are impressed with how much conservation work has been going on in Pia already, so it seems appropriate that it be designated a NAR. It could then become part of the Ko'olau Mountain Watershed Partnership, and management activities can be shared among a large team. Based on PC's long experience working on invasive alien plants, he (and SC as well) agrees completely with the proposal, where it states that no management would lead to extinctions of rare native species. Pia Valley is the last stronghold of the Endangered O'ahu

`Elepaio in Eastern O'ahu and most of the Southern Ko'olau Mountains. This species is probably able to survive in this dry forest because disease transmitting mosquitoes are rare. However, rat trapping during the `Elepaio breeding season would be key to maintaining this population.

We strongly encourage the addition of Pia Valley to O'ahu's Natural Area Reserves.

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Against DNLR's Proposal to Expand Kaena Point's Natural Area Reserve

Hi Ms. Yuen -

Thank you for your quick reply.

Yes, this is being submitted for the DNLR's proposal to expand the Natural Area Reserve at Kaena Point.

Per my testimony below, I am definitely against DNLR expanding the Natural Area Reserve in Kaena Point. Expanding the NAR in Kaena Point will further prohibit vehicle access to prime fishing spots.

It is my hope the current NAR boundaries in Kaena Point remain unchanged.

Thank you for giving us fishermen the opportunity to voice our concerns.

Mahalo -

Todd Maeda

Sent from my iPad

> Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Proposed Kaena Point Fence Relocation

> Aloha Ms. Yuen -

>

> Below is my testimony on the proposed Kaena Point fence relocation.

>

> Fishing was my father's favorite hobby. He took my brothers and I to Kaena Point to fish and camp since we were little. I am now in my 60s, and still go to Kaena Point to fish so I can bring home a fresh catch for my family. I took my son fishing since he was little, and now he takes his own family.

>

> When the current fence was put up, it took away vehicle access to several prime fishing spots. It also took away our enjoyment of camping since we cannot carry all our fishing and camping gear from our vehicles, which are parked outside the fence, to the fishing/camping site. My brothers and I are 60+ years old, and it is too far a walk for us with all our gear.

>

> Now, with this new proposal to move the fence further towards Haleiwa, it will create greater hardship for ALL fishermen! Nearly half of the prime fishing spots in Kaena Point will be inaccessible to vehicles! We, fishermen, need to be able to access these fishing spots with our gear-packed vehicles.

>

> Don't move the fence! Please don't take away any more vehicle access to our prime fishing spots!

>

> Thank you for your consideration in this very important issue.

>

> Mahalo -

> Todd Maeda

>

>

> Sent from my iPad

From: Troy Maeda

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Against the Proposed Expansion of the NAR at Kaena Point

I am against the proposed expansion of the NAR at Kaena Point.

If you look at the numbers, although the proposed expansion "only" encompasses ~1450 feet of additional land eastward of the current NAR, it is still a significant amount in the eyes of my family and the rest of the public.

My family has been fishing the entirety of Kaena Point on the Mokuleia side going back three generations. Over the years, we/locals have named certain popular fishing spots within the point based on the area's natural features, historical information, or fond memories. One of these which is included within the proposed expansion, is immediately adjacent to the current NAR.

The name of this particular spot is commonly known as "Cable Cart" due to old train tracks that used to cross over in that area. We've fished here many times over the years and the ability to be able to offload/unload equipment right from our trucks to the spot is crucial. I say "crucial" because now that my parents and relatives are getting older, it becomes even more of a concern nowadays with how areas that have been used for "drive-up" fishing in the past are now being taken away.

If this expansion to the NAR occurs, this will essentially take away this historical fishing spot as well as 2-3 other, smaller spots which are also encompassed in this area from the people who have been fishing/recreating them for a big chunk of their lives. As these people get older, it's much less likely that they'll be able to transport all of their fishing gear, even if it's just one setup, almost a third of a mile over undeveloped coastline. At the minimum, having to carry in even one pole, one reel, one chair, and a cooler with ice, bait, and water over that length is a daunting task.

Being able to drive up to these spots allows our elders to reminisce on past catches and also allows us with smaller children to be able to bring them to these areas to also create important memories. Memories which, in my case, and in the minds of others, can last a lifetime. Additionally, having the security of transportation being near at hand, allows for greater peace of mind being able to have items on-hand in the vehicles to address any situations that may arise during the time people are recreating in those areas.

A more recent example of this can be from just this past year. I had just finished fishing by the entrance/exit of the current NAR and was packing up to leave when a couple who had just been hiking in the NAR approached me. One of them seemed to be suffering from possible heatstroke and so they asked me if I could give them a ride back to their car in the outside parking lot. Luckily, for them, I was nearby and was able to get them a lift out during the time they were able to cool down and recover. Under those conditions, with an almost additional third of a mile to walk until they found someone that could assist them; they'd be in much worse shape.

One of the main "threats" highlighted in the proposal is "reducing and/or eliminating invasive species and illegal human activities" which are also the "highest management priorities for this parcel." If this is indeed the case, better management such as more traps/cleaning out invasive species can still be done without an expansion to

the NAR. Also, instead of further limiting vehicular access, more should be done about cracking down on illegal 4x4 activities throughout the entire park instead. Something like regular patrols inside the park, especially during the weekends/holidays, would do much more towards cutting down on "illegal human activities" and increase the natural health of the park as a whole. Restricting vehicles in this proposed expansion will just increase the hardships on "honest" fishermen and park users who actually are responsible and benefit from the ability to use their vehicles in a place as remote and wild as Kaena Point.

For my family and countless others who have responsibly used this area of the park for generations, please do not let a handful of "bad eggs" endanger our ability to safely and conveniently access this area for generations to come. Please do not continue with this proposal to expand the existing Kaena Point NAR. Thank you.

Regards,

-Troy Maeda

