

**MOU Between UH and DOFAW for collaborative land management and stewardship
Agenda item D-2**

Chairperson Suzanne Case
Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street Room 131
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: MOU between UH and DOFAW

Dear Chair Case and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Joel Burgess. I am working as a legal intern for the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) this summer as a Jarman Fellow and I am a rising second year law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I have attended the University of Hawai'i (UH) for five years now, and I have seen the work that the students and faculty do for the community. The services UH provides are well thought out and serve the people of Hawai'i. That is why I am writing to you to support the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UH and DOFAW to collaboratively steward and manage lands. I recently had the opportunity to talk with the DOFAW legal fellow to discuss the recent BLNR approval of the DOFAW Administrative Sanctions Schedule. After that meeting I realized how much effort and hard work DOFAW puts into caring for the land. My work with DAR this summer has highlighted the importance of people working together to manage our natural resources.

I believe that UH and DOFAW both do good work in managing the lands of this state. Both organizations are committed to serving the people of Hawai'i, and I think if given the chance to work together they can manage the lands of these islands more effectively and efficiently than working as separate entities. Please authorize a MOU between UH and DOFAW.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joel Burgess

2955 Dole St.
Honolulu, HI 96816

July 22, 2021

Aloha e Board of Land and Natural Resources Ohana,

My name is Heather “Hiwa” Campbell. I am a second year student at Hawai’i Community College - Pāalamanui, student worker, community member, and life-long student of Dr. Richard Stevens. I am writing on behalf of the 710 acres of native plant species and natural and archaeological features found in the Pāalamanui Forest Preserve.

I was introduced to the Pāalamanui Forest Preserve during the Fall Semester of 2020, in the middle of the Wili Wili grove as Dr. Stevens handed out ziploc bags for seed gathering. Throughout that semester, we cleaned trails, and when the semester came to an end, I continued this work as well as seed gathering, and I still gather seeds from native plants to turn over to the State Nursery. I feel fortunate to be able to say that we are probably the second college in the entire nation to have a forest preserve.

As a student, the Pāalamanui Forest Preserve has aided my education by deepening my understanding of what it is to acknowledge all phases of a place, and practices performed within that place. To be able to stand in the midst of an area containing remnants of its intimate history is such a rich resource. Dr. Stevens makes the preserve come to life geologically, historically, and academically for us students. I must admit that being able to have the forest as a classroom is an exquisite experience. Having access to the preserve, I am honored to have the opportunity to tie adventure into education. This allows me to not only sharpen, but broaden my perspective of how we approach living and learning, not just as students, but as young people preparing ourselves for life after the degree is handed to us. Having had Dr. Stevens as a professor and spending time in the preserve, I find myself moving through the academic process with curiosity and deep-seated purpose. Being in the preserve taught me that there is always more to learn and discover about a single thing; and carrying that over into my academic life has made the process rather colorful.

Perhaps, the next greatest part about spending time in the preserve is how it brings people together. We students and community members have majors and life experiences of all sorts, but while we are in the midst of waist-high fountain grass, imagining what each area looked like thousands of years ago, and envisioning how we want to restore it. We share one thing: Aloha Aina. We are not just restoring this precious bounty of resources; we are building life-long values of hard work, determination, and awareness of a bigger purpose. Dr. Stevens likes to call this “Historical Seeing, Spiritual Deepening, and Mind Expansion.”

Transitioning from Dr. Stevens's history class, to becoming an active worker on the same lands that my ancestors once walked on, to passing on the knowledge and perspective that I have collected, I have realized that as a student and community member, one of the greatest gifts I have been given from working in the Pāalamanui Forest Preserve is the opportunity to educate and perpetuate those around us, so that there later becomes a strong foundation of young people that have built an awareness of where they are and the role that they play as members of the community. The preserve has so much to teach us and remind us about where we are and how we can set an example, not just for our peers but our future generations. I have come to understand that the preserve is not a part of the campus; the campus is a part of the preserve.

Mahalo Nui,

Heather "Hiwa" Campbell

Keilana Crane

Hawai'i Community College at Pāalamanui
73-4225 Ane Keohokalole Hwy
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Statement of Support for Pāalamanui Nature Preserve

To: State Board of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha e members of the State Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Keilana Crane and I am currently a sophomore student at Hawai'i Community College at Pāalamanui. Dr. Richard L. Stevens is my professor and an important person in my life. The impact of COVID-19 has been devastating for all of us. We were responsible for keeping to ourselves, but we forgot the importance of our 'aina and how we need to protect it.

In the Fall 2020 semester, I was a freshmen student at Pāalamanui and the only in-person classes I had were with Dr. Stevens. He created integrated courses in which we, HCC students, were able to properly distance ourselves from each other and gather the important essence of preserving our land and history. Our classes all worked together on the land above our campus, a sacred area filled with lost trails of Hawaiian ancestors.

I, Keilana Crane, support the Pāalamanui Nature Preserve. I worked relentless hours rebuilding the trails in the preserve, trying to replicate what would have been there centuries ago, where people thrived on the land in harmony.

With Dr. Stevens' classes, I have discovered a new passion for the 'aina. It has sparked my love for making sure that native plants that thrive on our preserve are kept alive for future generations to come. These plants and trees on the preserve hold a history that cannot be found in a textbook. That is why your support in making our preserve a reality is so important.

Keilana Crane

Keilana Crane



Ka'ahahui 'o Ka Nāhelehele

P.O. Box 2933, Kamuela HI 96743

President Mary Metcalf - Vice President Elliott Parsons - Treasurer Sally Rice - Secretary Peter Van Dyke
Marian Chau - Susan Cordell - Jen Lawson - Lisa Hadway Spain - Ron Terry - Jill Wagner

July 21, 2021

State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources

via email to: blnr.testimony@Hawaii.gov

Written Testimony in Support of the July 23, 2021 BLNR Agenda Item D.2. – Pāalamanui Lowland Dry Forest Management

Dear BLNR Board Members,

On behalf of the Board of Ka'ahahui 'o Ka Nāhelehele (Nāhelehele), this written testimony is submitted with overwhelming support for the July 23rd, 2021 BLNR agenda item D.2. concerning the Pāalamanui Lowland Dry Forest Management proposal. Given the perilous state of Hawai'i's dry forest ecosystem, approval of this agenda item will provide tremendous benefits for ensuring the future of this native ecosystem and its highly endemic biodiversity, as well as enhanced educational benefits.

The lands covered by this proposal represents some of the best intact remaining fragments of native lowland dry forest in West Hawaii and the State. Historically, these Kekaha lands were used by the kahuna nui Hewahewa, a close advisor to Kamehameha I, to train future kahuna in their craft. These lands have mostly been unprotected and unmanaged, leading to partial destruction of the native dry forest largely due to feral goats. Protection from wildfire and invasive species is also much needed to preserve these cultural and natural resources. These lands provide a critical dry forest corridor that rises over 750 feet in elevation and a pathway for species migration and survival given climate change impacts. This dry forest area also provides beneficial connectivity for the dry forest critical habitat area set aside in the adjoining Pāalamanui Global Holdings LLC development project.

Providing active management of these lands through a joint DOFAW and UH partnership is a truly inspiring and creative step forward thanks to the vision and leadership of Robert Masuda and Elliott Parsons. Stewardship of these lands by UH provides immense context for students learning Hawaiian language, culture and history, botany, biology and other life sciences, and pays homage to the historical use of these Kekaha lands for training kahuna. This living laboratory at the doorstep of the UH Pāalamanui Community College Campus will undoubtedly lead to heightened interest and research into best management practices for the highly threatened dry forest ecosystem, and help to inspire many new generations of natural and cultural resource managers in Hawai'i.

Nāhelehele truly believes that this proposal deserves full support from BLNR, and will also provide support for the protection and management of these lands.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Metcalf, President
Ka 'ahahui 'o Ka Nāhelehele

From: [Richard Stevens](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Palamanui Forest Preserve
Date: Monday, July 19, 2021 7:23:59 PM

Aloha BLNR members,

I write in very strong support of your efforts to bring the Palamanui Forest Preserve into being. The lands protected and the partnership formed between DOFAW and the UH are malama 'aina at the highest level. Mahalo!

This outdoor laboratory, outdoor classroom, and community/Island/Earth treasure fits perfectly into the State's and the University's current goals and movement towards stewardship and sustainability, and will benefit both the environment and people of Hawaii for generations to come. As a teacher at the Palamanui Campus, I can assure you of the eagerness of our students to play a large role in protecting the remarkable remnant of lowland dry forest in the Preserve, and in restoring what has been lost. The creation of this Preserve will make the Campus unique, and will be a model for other communities and institutions to do the same.

Again, mahalo!

Sincerely,
Richard L. Stevens, Ph.D.
Lecturer in History and Humanities
HCC/UH Center at West Hawaii