



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

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

For the meeting of the Land Board

December 10, 2021
Honolulu, Hawaii

Agenda Item E1: Annual renewal of Revocable Permits Statewide.

Aloha Chairperson Case and Honorable Members of the Land Board,

On behalf of the Aha Moku participants and members of Native Hawaiian generational families connected to the Kealakekua Bay on the ahupua'a of Kealakekua, and on behalf of the members of Kealakekua Historic State Park Cultural Advisory Council comprised of generational families of Ka'awaloa Village, we offer comment and recommendations on the Revocable Permits as submitted under the Hawai'i Island category of the Division of State Parks Revocable Permit Master List of 2021 for the Island of Hawai'i.

While there are four permits on this list, we strongly support the Hanalike Ohana, LLC because although it is a commercial tour, its base rate is connected to a mooring fee that by law is established to be \$6 per linear foot – 42' canoe. Hanalike Ohana, LLC focuses on educational and true Kealakekua cultural activities as taught by a native Hawaiian practitioner from Kaawaloa Village.

The other three commercial tour and recreational activities are:

- Adventures in Paradise, Commercial Tour and Recreational Activities
- Kona Boys, Inc., Commercial Tour and Recreational Activities
- Aloha Kayak Company, Commercial Tour and Recreational Activities

We are concerned that the permits issued to these commercial and recreational activities are too low compared to the income received. The DSP current rent base equates to either \$5 per head (usually 2 to a kayak) or 5% of the gross charged for each kayak.

- Adventures in Paradise cost of kayak rental for 3.5 hours are \$100 per person, with 2 to a kayak. Tours start at 7:30 a.m.
- Kona Boys, Inc. cost of kayak/snorkel tours and rentals for 4.5 hours are \$200 per person (adults), \$174 per child (11yrs. Or younger) with 2 to a kayak. Tours start at 7:00 a.m.
- Aloha Kayak Company, cost of kayak/snorkel tours and rentals for 3.5-hour tours are \$99 per adult/\$54.50 per child; 5-hour tours are \$129 per adult/ \$69.50 per child.

Due to the extreme significance of Napo'opo'o, Ka'awaloa and Kealakekua Bay itself, as well as inflation, we ask that the DSP current rent base be doubled. We also look forward to working with these companies.

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

Aha Moku Recommendations per the Kealakekua Historic State Park Cultural Advisory Council:

- **That the DSP current rent base for Adventures in Paradise, Kona Boys, Inc., and the Aloha Kayak Company be increased to \$10 per head or 10% of the gross whichever is higher.**
- **That all tours departing from Napo'opo'o Wharf begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. Napo'opo'o Wharf was an important cultural site before it became a wharf and is considered part of the Ka'awaloa Village.**
- **That no tours will operate on weekends, state or federal holidays (to give residents and kamaaina a chance to enjoy the pier and/or use it for cultural practices)**
- **DSP make it mandatory that all tours operating from the Napo'opo'o Wharf cancel tours during state, county, and/or federal postings of high surf warnings as a safety issue.**

Aha Moku is currently in the process of working with the Kealakekua Historic State Park Cultural Advisory Council, and State Parks to develop the Kealakekua Special Fund which will be used in the future for maintenance of the Napo'opo'o Pier, Cultural projects, Safety and Educational practices.

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

The State must not forget their obligations and impacts to Ka'awaloa Village. "We keep supporting all of their state efforts, but they are really slow in acknowledging our cultural efforts." Their concern is the impact visitors have in the village, now and in the future – which is, and always has been, their home.

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

Respectfully and humbly yours,

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