Testimony of SUPPORT for a Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of the Rules Package for Miloliʻi Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area

Aloha, my name is Wesley Basinga III. Everybody calls me Boi.

I SUPPORT having a public hearing on the proposed rules package for Miloliʻi.

I live here in Miloliʻi with my Dad and my Tutu

I am a student at Kua O Ka Lā Hīpuʻu

I do my part of kilo data collection in my classroom

I support my family's fishing lifestyle

Please let me and my ʻohana be heard in a public hearing.

Mahalo,

BOI
RE: Friday February 25th, 2022, Meeting at 9:00 am AGENDA ITEM F-2

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources

My name is Wesley Kilakila Basinga Jr. I am a single father of 3 kids and I'm a Pastor to the youth here in Miloli'i and in Kailua Kona. I reside here in Miloli'i village and am a lineal descendant of this place through the Paulo line. My grandma is Margaret Basinga, maiden name Paulo.

As kids me and my 14 cuzzins were raised part time here in Miloli'i by our grandma and were taught to fish, dive and gather mostly along the shoreline as our ohana never had a boat. Growing up here we learned the importance of sustainability and taking care of what we have.

Currently I am a Konohiki apprentice and have participated in the ocean and nearshore surveying and monitoring of our resources for the past couple years.

Today, I testify in SUPPORT of the state having a public hearing for the proposed rules package for the Miloli'i Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area and in SUPPORT of the rules that are being presented in this package.

Mahalo, Wesley K Basinga Jr
Testimony of **SUPPORT** for a Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of the Rules Package for Miloli‘i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area

Aloha, my name is Timoteo Casuga-Llanes.

I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of the state having a public hearing on the proposed rules package for the Miloli‘i Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area.

Miloli‘i CBSFA was designated in 2005. In 2019, Kalanihale a Miloli‘i non-profit organization made its‘ request to the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources to express it’s readiness to create its‘ rules package.

I live here in Miloli‘i with my parents, my Grandma & Grandpa. I am a student at Kua O Ka Lā Hīpu‘u and I do my part of kilo data collection and science surveying in my classroom - Puakai‘a Miloli‘i. I support my family's fishing lifestyle and the work that my ‘ohana is doing for the rules.

Please let me and my ‘ohana be heard in a public hearing.

Mahalo,

Timoteo Casuga-Llanes
Aloha,

My name is Bob Douglas my heritage is of Belgian and Irish descent. I’m married to U’ilani Naipo a direct lineal descendant of Miloli’i. Our sons are lineal descendants as well.

Today I testify in SUPPORT of the state having a public hearing on the proposed rules package for the Miloli’i Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA).

Miloli’i CBSFA was designated in 2005 and in 2019, Kalanihale a Milolii non-profit organization made their formal request to the Department of Land and Natural Resource (DLNR) Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to express it’s readiness to create its‘ rules package.

As the husband and father of lineal descendants of Miloli’i, the proposed rules package reflect their traditional practices passed down through generations and mana‘o from them and my family. I ask that you allow a public hearing for the proposed rules package for Miloli’i CBSFA.

The Miloli’i CBSFA Strategic & Planning Hui has conducted self-evaluation of the community, in water and nearshore monitoring and surveying of marine and environmental resources, developed proposed rules, and conducted extensive outreach to gather feedback and comments. I ask that you allow the due process of conducting a public hearing for the proposed rules package for Miloli’i CBSFA.

Mahalo,

Bob Douglas
danhieux18@icloud.com
Instagram.com/danhieux
808 333-0402
Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund
Post Office Box 1801, Kealakekua, Hawai‘i, HI 96750 &
Post Office Box 790637, Paia, Maui, HI 96779
Celebrating 25 years of protecting
Hawai‘i’s native wildlife through research, education and
conservation.

Division of Aquatic Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 330
Honolulu, HI 96813
e: DLNR.aquatics@hawaii.gov / CBSFA@hawaii.gov (cc: kkaupiko@gmail.com, miloliicbsfa@gmail.com)

Re: Miloli‘i proposed CBSFA rules and Marine Management Plan – South Kona, Hawai‘i

29 October 2021

Aloha DAR leadership,

Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund (HWF) wholeheartedly supports the initiative of Kalanihale, of Miloli‘i, South Kona in cooperation with the DLNR and their community members to restore abundance to Miloli‘i reefs and nearshore waters. The proposed rules and Marine Management Plan for their Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) are critical for that restoration to occur and HWF supports Kalanihale’s Marine Management Plan.

The rural Hawaiian fishing village of Miloli‘i, South Kona is home to Kama‘āina steadfast in traditional fishing practices and stewardship of their ‘Āina. They have and continue to rely upon fishing and gathering of marine resources for their subsistence and well-being. The health and resilience of the fishery is integral to ensure that subsistence, cultural, and religious practices continue for current and future generations.

Kūpuna of Miloli‘i have always and still remain the guiding voice for Kalanihale as it navigates its way in response to observing dramatic declining health and abundance of marine resources in their waters. HWF recognizes the great efforts Kalanihale has done over the years and we have supported Kalanihale to meet some of their objectives (listed here):

- Community Engagements: Facilitate community awareness and feedback with the ‘Ohana Miloli‘i; Establish partnerships with key agencies, fishery councils and cultural committees. Host communities for cultural enrichment.
Educational Programs: Maintain community awareness; Develop in-residence proficiency of konohiki ways; Educate - ‘Āina-based educational programs, ‘Ohana learning of lawai’a pono, fishery rules, and stewardship.

Health & Wellness Programs: Facilitate access to health services in Miloli’i Community; Host Health & Wellness events; provide enrichment programs to Miloli’i youth.

Community-based Monitoring: Conduct frequent in-residence training and perform ongoing in-water, coastal, and marine species monitoring. Increase manpower and proficiency to sustain community-based monitoring objectives.

State Agencies & Legislation: Advocate for the collective voice of the Miloli’i Community; Established Miloli’i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (2005); Submission of Marine Management Plan (2021).

Hawai’i Nei is home to thousands of native species living from the depths of the pelagic environment and coral reefs to the very peak of Mauna Kea. Like many island ecosystems, a large percentage of the native wildlife living in the Hawaiian archipelago is endemic to this region. At the same time, island ecosystems are much more vulnerable to the threats of invasive species and natural disasters, and are consequently more at risk for extinction than their continental counterparts. In addition, and of utmost importance, the health and wellness of our island residents is intimately linked to the wellbeing of the surrounding environment (The Kohala Center 2016) and traditional ecological knowledge and lessons can be learned from the local community members and fishermen to help support and sustain these same marine resources into the future (Johannes 1981).

In this era of increasing anthropogenic threats to our coastal and marine ecosystems from climate change (sea-level rise, warming ocean temperatures, more frequent storm events, heightened drought / flooding patterns), coupled with excessive tourism, overdevelopment, and overfishing activities we need to take action immediately to both plan and to protect our natural resources and cultural practices (and think about generations to come). Such is the initiative that is being proposed at Miloli’i, and it is urgent that we act now to protect this Wahi Pana and the nearshore resources that Kalanihale and community members have sought to protect for the past two decades.

The following highlights three of the many reasons that our HWF team supports this effort:

- Securing the health and resilience of the fishery at Miloli’i is integral to ensuring that subsistence, cultural and spiritual practices continue for current and future generations. The success they have demonstrated has had a powerful positive influence with other communities throughout Hawai’i.
- We recognize that co-management efforts such as these will help the state achieve the goal of effectively managing 30% of nearshore marine waters by 2030. (More effective management means more fish in the sea - for their intrinsic value and for the sustenance of future generations.)
- This proposal was based on the collective knowledge of Kūpuna, Kama‘aina families, and traditional and customary practices specific to their place.
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 actively involved in research, education, restoration and advocacy projects related to the protection of coastal and nearshore ecosystems around the Pae ʻĀina. HWF was founded by two former National Marine Fisheries scientists, and we have been involved in community-based fisheries management efforts since 2003 at the invitation of the former Community Conservation Network (CCN), now Kuaʻāina Ulu Auamo (KUA) to join the E Alu Pū network. We are also co-founders of the original Makai Watch program (another community-based marine management program), together with CCN, The Nature Conservancy, DOCARE and the communities of Miloli‘i, and ‘Āhihi-Kīnaʻu Natural Area Reserve.

We support regulations that facilitate local communities, concerned fishermen, and the DLNR to improve current marine resource conditions on an Ahupua‘a or Moku scale. Since traditionally managed fishery zones where the community is dedicated and involved have standing stocks of reef fishes equal to that in fully protected marine reserves (Poepoe et al., 2003), they should be fully supported for community co-management initiatives. We share the spirit embodied in the E Alu Pū Resolution No. 1-2013 regarding CBSFA designations, rules and the work of many communities seeking to mālama their place through co-management approaches. While this particular proposal extends to the bounds of nine Ahupua‘a, Kalanihale has shown that this entire region has been utilized for generations to support the families that live there, and protecting this whole area for future generations is of utmost importance.

We support communities that wish to develop subsistence fishery management areas and plans, including Miloli‘i and Ho‘okena on the island of Hawai‘i, Ha‘ena on Kaua‘i, Kīpahulu on Maui, Mo‘omomi on Moloka‘i, and will continue to back other Moku or Ahupua‘a that seek the same.

**HWF advocates for the initiatives of Kalanihale and their Marine Management Plan for Miloli‘i as we have with this community since 2003, and we encourage you to do the same.** Kalanihale and community members in Miloli‘i have worked hard for decades on this CBSFA initiative and we urge you to move this process to completion. Mahalo for your time, consideration, and support of this proposal to sustain the native wildlife / habitats, cultural landscape, community connectivity and special, sacred place that is Miloli‘i.

*Me ke aloha pumehana,*

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**Megan R. Lamson, M.S.**  
President & Hawai‘i Program Director  
megan@wildhawaii.org  
(808) 769-7629 (debris hotline)

**Hannah J. Bernard**  
Co-founder & Executive Director  
hannah@wildhawaii.org  
(808) 280-8124
Cited references in SUPPORT of this CBSFA:

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources members,

My name is Lisa-Ann Mahealani Hua and I am a decendent of the Paulo ohana of Miloliʻi Fishing Village. I was born in Oahu, then moved to Miloliʻi Village with my parents and siblings in 1969. Since then I was raised to participate in the traditional and cultural practices of the different styles of fishing. Such as; opelu fishing and preparing palu made of taro, pumpkin, and avocado; limu kohu harvesting; single spear fishing made of wire hangers, learning how to catch aʻama with my bare hands and a bucket with bait, night fishing for uʻu on the shoreline, also fished hand-line for ahi, aku, marlin, mahimahi and ono.

Later on in life, I was married to George Hua Sr, a U.S. Army Retired and fishermen of Honaunau. We became fishing partners of a Commercial Fishing Business called “Silver Star Fishing Enterprises”, in Miloliʻi Village. For our business the main style of fishing was Shallow-Bottom Fishing, also known as, “Kaili”.

As a student of Mohala Na Konohiki led by Uncle Mac Poepoe of Molokaʻi, we are always in observation mode to malama our resources. Digging deeper into the understanding of how to protect and help sustain the resources, I volunteered in the Miloliʻi Makai Watch program.

Today, I testify in SUPPORT of the State having a public hearing on the proposed rules package for the Miloliʻi Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area that was designated in 2005 and 2019.

Mahalo plenty,

Lisa Ann Mahealani Hua
State of Hawai‘i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

February 25, 2022

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai‘i
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

F-2 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS TO ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER UNDER HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (“HAR”) AS TITLE 13 CHAPTER 60.XX, MILOLI‘I COMMUNITY-BASED SUBSISTENCE FISHING AREA, HAWAI‘I, TO MANAGE AND PROTECT FISH STOCKS AND TO REAFFIRM TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMARY NATIVE HAWAIIAN SUBSISTENCE FISHING PRACTICES ALONG THE SOUTHWEST COAST OF HAWAI‘I ISLAND

Aloha mai kakou Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is William K. Ma’e-Huihui a lawai’a practitioner of Moku o Keawe and resident of Miloli‘i fishing village. I am testifying in SUPPORT of having a public hearing for the proposed adoption of the rules package for the Miloli‘i CBSFA. With the rules package I believe this will help bring abundance back to Miloli‘i and the surrounding area.

I am an apprentice of the Mohala Na Konohiki program here in Miloli‘i under the direction of Uncle Mac Poepoe of Moloka‘i. I have been a part of the program for four years now and I have learned so much through the guidance of Uncle Mac. I see we as a hui have to work together to help the abundance with the resources we have and aid them in growth and repopulation of area though pono harvesting and constant kilo. Myself and other Mohala Na Konohiki apprentices kilo continuously and see not only the depletion of certain species and habitat, we also see the potential of growth and abundance in these areas with pono practices.

Our community as a whole came together and helped with the zones, species, and rules that should be within the MCBSFA. One function of the Mohala Na Konohiki hui is to communicate with the ‘ohana of Miloli‘i after questions and concerns are brought up. Mohala Na Konohiki hui reaches out to the community and addresses the questions or concerns, gains their feedback, and from there reply with the voice of the community not as an individual. As Konohiki it is vital for open communication
between the community, the resources mauka to makai, and maintaining as much balance as possible between the resources and the community as a whole.

I have been kako’o to the non-profit Kalanihale for many years and have been part of their biological marine monitoring programs. Sharing of ‘ike of lawai’a practices passed down to me from my father that was passed down to him from his father of i’a (fishes) and ko’a (home/habitat). I helped by getting in the water and sharing with students, scientists, and kanaka what I know and helped to give them a view of a different perspective. By working with other communities, marine biologists, conservation groups, and more it helped me gain more appreciation for what we have here in our community both below the waters and above.

In Conclusion I strongly urge that you support having a public hearing for the proposed adoption of the rules package for the Miloli’i CBSFA. With the gear restrictions, bag limits, and the pu’uhonua it’s a step towards better practices. With the selected species’ closed and open seasons, size limits, and rest zone is a step towards better management. I feel the community has worked hard and is ready for the next steps as we continue this process and carry forward to a new and positive endeavor of marine conservation and the observance of traditional Hawaiian fishing practices in a place known as the last traditional Hawaiian fishing village of Hawaii nei. Mahalo for your time, energy and feedback as we continue this process may your day be blessed mahalo nui loa.

William K. Ma’e-Huihui
Re: Miloli‘i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area Rules & Marine Management Plan

November 15th, 2021

Division of Aquatic Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 330
Honolulu, HI 96813
Cc: Kalanihale (milolii CBSFA@gmail.com)

Aloha Division of Aquatic Resources’ Administrator & Staff,

Ka ‘Ohana O Honu‘apo (KOOH) supports the efforts of Kalanihale, of Miloli‘i, South Kona in cooperation with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and their community members to restore abundance to Miloli‘i reefs and nearshore waters. The proposed Rules and Marine Management Plan for their Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) are critical for that restoration to occur and KOOH supports Kalanihale’s Marine Management Plan.

The rural Hawaiian fishing village of Miloli‘i, South Kona is home to Kama‘āina steadfast in traditional fishing practices and stewardship of their ‘Āina. They have and continue to rely upon fishing and gathering of marine resources for their subsistence and well-being. The health and resilience of the fishery is integral to ensure that subsistence, cultural, and religious practices continue for current and future generations.

Kūpuna of Miloli‘i have always and still remain the guiding voice for Kalanihale as it navigates its way in response to observing dramatic declining health and abundance of marine resources in their waters. KOOH recognizes the great efforts Kalanihale has done over the years and we have supported Kalanihale to meet some of their objectives (listed here):

- Community Engagements -- Facilitate community awareness and feedback with the ‘Ohana Miloli‘i; Establish partnerships with key agencies, fishery councils and cultural committees. Host communities for cultural enrichment.

- Educational Programs -- Maintain community awareness; Develop in-residence proficiency of konohiki ways; Educate - ‘Āina-based educational programs, ‘Ohana learning of lawai‘a pono, fishery rules, and stewardship.
• Health & Wellness Programs -- Facilitate access to health services in Miloliʻi Community; Host Health & Wellness events; provide enrichment programs to Miloliʻi youth.

• Community-based Monitoring -- Conduct frequent in-residence training and perform ongoing in-water, coastal, and marine species monitoring. Increase manpower and proficiency to sustain community-based monitoring objectives.

• State Agencies & Legislation -- Advocate for the collective voice of the Miloliʻi Community; Established Miloliʻi Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (2005); Submission of Marine Management Plan (2021).

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 ʻĀina (care for the land), ʻAina (honesty and integrity), and Kuleana (duty and responsibility), we will work in community partnerships to preserve this area for future generations.” KOOH community volunteers have 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. We honor the many decades of effort that Kalanihale and the Miloliʻi community have put into sustaining their marine resources for future generations. It is critical for places like this one to be protected from development and overharvesting of resources for our local community members, as we have strived to do here in Kaʻū at Honu‘apo for the past 17 years.

We stand together with the Kalanihale and Miloliʻi community members and advocate to DLNR-DAR and BLNR Board members to support their CBSFA proposed rules and marine management plan.

Mahalo,
Kalahoʻohie Mossman
KOOH Board President
c: kalahoochie@gmail.com

& all the other Ka ‘Ohana O Honu‘apo Board of Directors, including:
- Nohea Kaawa, Vice President
- Ken Sugai, Treasurer
- Megan Lamson Leatherman, Secretary
- Daniel Dierking, Director
- Jodie Rosam, Director

cc: kaohanaohonuapo@gmail.com
On Feb 23, 2022, at 9:20 PM, Reyn Kaupiko <reyn.kaupiko@yahoo.com> wrote:

NAME: Reyn Kaupiko
AGENDA ITEM: F2

Please accept my written testimony in support of Agenda Item F2.

Aloha,

My name is Reyn Kaupiko.

Today I testify in SUPPORT of the Miloliʻi Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) rules package request. In 2005 and again in 2019 Miloliʻi was designated as a CBSFA, but during those designation times no rules or regulations were set into place. Thus giving Miloliʻi a name only title with no substance for resource regulation.

Kalanihale, a Miloliʻi non-profit organization, has made a formal request to the Department of Land and Natural Resource (DLNR) Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) expressing the readiness for creation and immediate need for a rules and regulations package.

Miloliʻi holds an importance in today's society, it is the last Native Hawaiian fishing village. Much of the Hawaiian culture has been lost through the years and this rules package creation will somewhat help continue the traditions of our indigenous people. My family comes from Miloliʻi and I find it important for us as natives to have this village in a thriving state.

The Miloliʻi CBSFA Strategic & Planning Hui has conducted self-evaluation of the community, in water and nearshore monitoring and surveying of marine and environmental resources, developed proposed rules, and conducted extensive outreach to gather feedback and comments.

I ask that you allow the due process of conducting a public hearing for the proposed rules package for Miloliʻi CBSFA.

Mahalo,

Reyn Kaupiko
NAME:                        Skye Kaupiko
AGENDA ITEM:          F2

Please accept my written testimony in support of Agenda Item F2.

Aloha,

My name is Skye Kaupiko.

Today I testify in SUPPORT of the Miloli’i Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) rules package request. In 2005 and again in 2019 Miloli’i was designated as a CBSFA, but during those designation times no rules or regulations were set into place. Thus giving Miloli’i a name only title with no substance for resource regulation.

Kalanihale, a Miloli’i non-profit organization, has made a formal request to the Department of Land and Natural Resource (DLNR) Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) expressing the readiness for creation and immediate need for a rules and regulations package.

Miloli’i holds an importance in today’s society, it is the last Native Hawaiian fishing village. Much of the Hawaiian culture has been lost through the years and this rules package creation will somewhat help continue the traditions of our indigenous people. My family comes from Miloli’i and I find it important for us as natives to have this village in a thriving state.

The Miloli’i CBSFA Strategic & Planning Hui has conducted self-evaluation of the community, in water and nearshore monitoring and surveying of marine and environmental resources, developed proposed rules, and conducted extensive outreach to gather feedback and comments.

I ask that you allow the due process of conducting a public hearing for the proposed rules package for Miloli’i CBSFA.

Mahalo,

Skye Kaupiko
Please accept my written testimony in support of Agenda Item F2.

Aloha,

My name is Reyn Kaupiko.

Today I testify in support of the Miloliʻi Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) rules package request. In 2005 and again in 2019 Miloliʻi was designated as a CBSFA, but during those designation times no rules or regulations were set into place. Thus giving Miloliʻi a name only title with no substance for resource regulation.

Kalanihale, a Miloliʻi non-profit organization, has made a formal request to the Department of Land and Natural Resource (DLNR) Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) expressing the readiness for creation and immediate need for a rules and regulations package.

Miloliʻi holds an importance in today's society, it is the last Native Hawaiian fishing village. Much of the Hawaiian culture has been lost through the years and this rules package creation will somewhat help continue the traditions of our indigenous people. My family comes from Miloliʻi and I find it important for us as natives to have this village in a thriving state.

The Miloliʻi CBSFA Strategic & Planning Hui has conducted self-evaluation of the community, in water and nearshore monitoring and surveying of marine and environmental resources, developed proposed rules, and conducted extensive outreach to gather feedback and comments.

I ask that you allow the due process of conducting a public hearing for the proposed rules package for Miloliʻi CBSFA.

Mahalo,

Reyn Kaupiko
Aloha kākou,

My name is Cyrus Pohaku Kaupu. 
I am 12 years old and born and raised in Miloli’i. 
I am a lineal descendant of Hoopuloa, Miloli’i, Omoka’a and so much more. 
I attend Kua o Ka La Hipu’u Charter School here in Miloli’i.

I am before you today to testify my support for the Miloli’i ‘ohana and the CBSFA to be heard.

My papa Levi Kaupu and mama Viola Grace Kaupu are ‘opelu fishers of Miloli’i and so is my mom.

I go holoholo with my papa, my mom and Uncle Will and learn the ways of ‘ōpelu fishing from them. From scraping pumpkin and kalo, to going to the ko’a and identifying the landmarks and to knocking on the side of the boat to let the kupuna know we are here before we enter with the meaʻai. The best part is when we pull up our catch and the first thing that either my papa or mom says is, here, handing me 2 of the biggest ‘opelu to honi and give back to Kanaloa with a mahalo!

As a haumana of Kua O Ka La in Miloli’i, I do my part to kilo data collection and science surveying in my classroom, the Puaka’ia Miloli’i area. I support the fishing lifestyle my family and I live. And I support the work that my mom, my Uncle’s, my Aunties, and the Kupuna seen and unseen of Miloli’i is doing and has done for the rules and the Miloli’i community.

Being that the Miloli’i CBSFA was placed 4 years before my birth and as a next generation lawai’a and water man, I hope to continue catching and eating these ‘ono i’a well into my adulthood. A time where I can continue to eat the stories of our kupuna lawai’a.

Mahalo for allowing me the time and space to share. Aloha!

Aloha everyone, I am Leivallyn Kaupu and I am a descendant of Kapalilua. I have sent in my written testimony but will be giving you all my oral testimony right now. Today I testify in SUPPORT Agenda F-2:

Request for Approval to Hold Public Hearings to Adopt a New Chapter Under Hawaii Administrative Rules (“HAR”) as Title 13 Chapter 60.XX, Miloliʻi Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area, Hawaiʻi, to Manage and Protect Fish Stocks and to Reaffirm Traditional and Customary Native Hawaiian Subsistence Fishing Practices Along the Southwest Coast of Hawaiʻi Island

of the state having a public hearing on the proposed rules package for the Miloliʻi Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA). Miloliʻi CBSFA was designated in 2005 and in 2019, Kalanihale a Milolii non-profit organization made its formal request to the Department of Land and Natural Resource (DLNR) Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to express its readiness to create its rules package.

I have been a part of the Miloliʻi CBSFA Hui since the very beginning, I am a Kumu of our Kua O Ka Lā Miloliʻi Hīpuʻu Virtual Program, Vice President for Paʻa Pono Miloliʻi, and Sr. Project Lead for Kalanihale, and my ʻohana and I am the current ʻŌpelu Project practitioner under Kalanihale.
ORAL Testimony of SUPPORT for a Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of the Rules Package for Miloli‘i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area

As a resident and lineal descendant of Kapalilua, Miloli‘i, the proposed rules package truly reflects our traditional practices passed down through generations and mana‘o from me and my family. I have both conducted and participated in community interviews, outreach education and presentations, and ocean and nearshore surveying and biological monitoring. I am a trained community volunteer of Miloli‘i Makai Watch and a Konohiki Apprentice under the tutelage of Uncle Mac Poepoe. As a traditional lawaiʻa and lineal descendant of Kapalilua, I ask that you allow the due process of conducting a public hearing for the proposed rules package for Miloli‘i CBSFA.

Mahalo kākou!
Aloha Chair Case and Board Members,

Aloha kakahiaka kākou.
O wau o Laila Kaupu koʻu inoa. No Omokaʻa a me Miloliʻi mai au.
Noho au ma Milolii-Hoopuloa. He kamaʻāina wau no keia wahi.
My name is Laila Kaupu. I am from Omokaʻa and Miloliʻi.
I live in the Milolii-Hoopuloa housing lots designated for the relocation of families that were affected by the April 18, 1926 lava flow, engulfing the entire village of Hoopuloa.
I am a lineal descendent of these places in the district of Kapalilua and many more.

Please accept my written testimony in SUPPORT of the approval for the Board of Land and Natural Resources to hold a public hearing for the Miloliʻi Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area and Rules.

I come from a long line of lawaiʻa. Where the - never ask why, just watch and learn and the paʻa ka waha hana ka lima was and still is one of the many values of life. We still live in these times even though generations have passed on. It's the Hawaiian traditions, cultural customary practices, Hawaiian values, pono codes of conduct, and knowing what you are going to give back before even taking, it is that in which the word Subsistence, is what we continue to thrive on and live by. That generational inheritance of stewardship to the ʻāina - not just the care for land, sea and all the in-betweens, but the care for (ʻāina) that in which feeds. This is also my kūleana as a mākua, to feed ʻike and moʻolelo of people, ʻohana and place, to feed values and best practices, to be that ʻāina for my son, Pohaku Kaupu.

As a resident and lineal descendant of Kapalilua, the proposed rules package reflect our traditional practices passed down through generations and manaʻo from me and my family. I participated in community outreaches, cultural exchanges, education and presentations, and ocean and nearshore surveying and monitoring. I am a trained community volunteer of Miloliʻi Makai Watch and a konohiki apprentice under the tutelage of Uncle Mac Poepoe. I ask that you allow the voices of the Miloliʻi community and myself to be heard.

*I will also be presenting along side DAR Staff, U'ilani Naipo and Kaimi Kaupiko for the Miloliʻi CBSFA.

Mahalo a nui loa,

Laila Kaupu
February 25, 2022

Board of Land Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Re: Kuaʻāina Ulu Auamo’s (KUA) Support for Item F-2: Request for Approval to Hold Public Hearings to Adopt a New Chapter Under Hawaii Administrative Rules (“HAR”) as Title 13 Chapter 60.XX, Miloliʻi Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area, Hawaiʻi, to Manage and Protect Fish Stocks and to Reaffirm Traditional and Customary Native Hawaiian Subsistence Fishing Practices Along the Southwest Coast of Hawaiʻi Island

Aloha Chair Case and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Kuaʻāina Ulu ‘Auamo (KUA) enthusiastically submits this letter in support of the Division of Aquatic Resources request for approval to hold public hearings to adopt rules for the Miloliʻi Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA).

Kuaʻāina Ulu ‘Auamo means “grassroots growing through shared responsibility,” our acronym KUA means backbone. KUA works to empower communities to improve their quality of life through caring for their environmental heritage together. We employ a community-driven approach that currently supports a network of more than 36 mālama ʻāina (care for that which feeds) community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), over 40 fishpond restoration projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko Iʻa (HMLI; the group that cares for fishponds), and the Limu (seaweed) Hui made up of limu loea (experts) all from across the state.

The foundational vision and work to create KUA has deep roots in the lawaiʻa community of Miloliʻi and their proposed CBSFA rules. In the late 90’s and early 2000’s lawaiʻa ohana there began to interact or reach out to similar communities across the state. Some yet to be born and others who sat at their elders’ feet over 2 decades ago when the CBSFA vision was first discussed now carry forward the vision of those before them. KUA exists because of those lawaiʻa and ‘ohana. So does the CBSFA law and Miloliʻi’s pre-existing 2005 designation. Indeed, Kalanihale and its community leadership, on behalf of kamaʻāina families and kūpuna of Miloliʻi, Kapalilua, South Kona, took hold of this kuleana to mālama their fisheries in 2010 and actively worked to restore abundance by caring for, studying, and managing the cultural and marine resources within their designated CBSFA area.

Throughout the ten years of KUA’s organizational existence community-based fishery management and CBSFA’s continue to be a network priority. Today, Kalanihale continues to show leadership at the statewide and local level. It takes leadership in E Alu Pū’s governance council and Lawaiʻa Pono Hui (focus group). They educate their youth, connect them to their place and are building on a modern vision of kauhale.

Our founders in the ‘ohana of the Miloliʻi and the surrounding areas continue to rely upon fishing and gathering of marine resources for their subsistence, cultural practice, and well-being. The health and resilience of their fishery is integral to ensuring that subsistence, cultural and religious practices continue for current and future generations. The long-term vision, leadership, partnership, sweat equity, and vision of Kalanihale, their leadership and lineage as long-term advocates and practitioners for aloha ʻāina, mālama ʻāina, ʻāina based education, co-management and co-governance should be lauded, celebrated, and supported. Passage of these rules affirm our state’s constitutional kuleana, and its interest and investment in a citizenry, and Native Hawaiian community...
and ethic that not only thrives on the abundance of nature but cares for and works with our state to restore our special places so they once again can be more provident.

Please approve this rule package for a public hearing.

Pūpūkahi i holomua e hoʻokanaka
(Let us unite to better the human condition)

Kevin K.J. Chang
Co-Director
Testimony of SUPPORT for a Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of the Rules Package for Miloli’i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area

Chair Case and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am U'ilani Naipo, lineal descendant of Miloli’i. I am the granddaughter of Eugene Keaweiki and Sarah Kapela Kaupiko. My ‘ohana Kaupiko, Pohina, and Kaliuna has always populated the area of Kapalilua. From Ala‘e, Haukalua, Ka‘ohe, to Wai‘ōhinu, but most notably Pāpā, Ho‘ōpūloa, Miloli’i, and Kapu‘a. The Miloli’i makai lands of my ‘ohana spans the entire ahupua‘a of Miloli’i coastline, from the boundary of Ho‘ōpūloa to the stone wall boundary of Omoka‘a. For generations, my ‘ohana has always played key roles in Miloli’i and neighboring communities throughout Kapalilua. Today, these inherited duties are still maintained by my ‘ohana and the ‘ohana of Miloli’i as steward of the ‘āina, kai, and the natural resources.

Please accept my testimony in SUPPORT of the state having a public hearing on the proposed rules package for the Miloli’i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA). Miloli’i CBSFA was designated in 2005 and in 2019, Kalanihale a Milolii non-profit organization made its’ formal request to the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources to express it’s readiness to create its' rules package. After initially drafting its' rules, Miloli’i CBSFA Strategic team focused on its' community outreach, vetting all feedback, comments and recommendations.

Miloli’i CBSFA Strategic and Planning Hui extensive community outreach included:

- 1:1 with Fisher and Fisher Groups
- Fishery Communities and Network of Fishery Communities
- Landowners within the ahupua‘a of the proposed CBSFA
- State Natural Resource Management Agencies
- Conservation Organizations
- Hānai ‘Ōpelu Fishing Communities of West Hawai‘i
- Hawaiian Homestead Associations

Their methods of community outreach were:

- Social Media Announcements & Posts
- Newsletter Publications - Ka Wai Ola, West Hawai‘i Today
- Podcast - Ka Leo O Ka Uluau, University of Hawai‘i - Hilo
As generational stewards of Kapalilua, and having conducted extensive outreach, I request you allow the community of Miloli'i to proceed forward by having the state conduct a public hearing to consider adopting their rules package.

Mahalo,

U'ilani Naipo
Request for Approval to Hold Public Hearings to Adopt a New Chapter Under Hawai’i Administrative Rules (“HAR”) as Title 13 Chapter 60.XX, Miloli’i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area, Hawai’i, to Manage and Protect Fish Stocks and to Reaffirm Traditional and Customary Native Hawaiian Subsistence Fishing Practices Along the Southwest Coast of Hawai’i Island.

February 25, 2022 9:00 a.m. Online via ZOOM

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (“OHA”) STRONGLY SUPPORTS the advancement to hold public hearings to adopt a new chapter to include the Miloli’i CBSFA. Hawai’i has recently seen a resurgence in the movement to establish CBSFAs and other place-based, community-driven regulations based on time-tested traditional customs and values. OHA’s Board of Trustees recently adopted A Resolution Supporting Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area Designation and Rules (see Attachment), empowering Native Hawaiian subsistence communities to guide the harvesting practices and customs in their nearshore waters.

The Miloli’i Fisheries Management Area was designated as a CBSFA in 2005, as provided in HRS §188-22.76 to:

(1) Ensure long-term sustainable populations of fish and other marine species, and encourage the scientific study and understanding of subsistence fishing management. [L 2005, c 232, section 2], (HRS §188-22.7)
(2) Encourage the scientific study and understanding of subsistence fishing management. [L 2005, c232, section 2], (HRS §188-22.7)

OHA greatly appreciates and commends the years of countless hours of dedicated work the organization Kalanihale conducted towards the Miloli’i CBSFA. Further, OHA appreciates the Miloli’i CBSFA’s acknowledgment of the importance of maintaining and stewarding valuable subsistence resources that reflect regional traditions, customs, and practices; and is confident, with the support from their community partners, they can steward the resources within their CBSFA jurisdiction.

OHA calls upon governmental policy makers for continued progress towards streamlining and making the process more user friendly for enlisting communities to carry out the work of the sustainable community based subsistence fisheries by integrating place based and Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and values with the best practices and methods developed by contemporary science through the creation of community based
subsistence fishing areas and rules and approaches that will benefit present and future generations.

Finally, as a comprehensive reflection of the needs and desires of the Miloli‘i community, OHA believes that the Miloli‘i CBSFA will serve as an invaluable guide to future policies, decisions, and actions that can best suit Hawai‘i nei and all its residents.

Therefore, OHA urges the BLNR to APPROVE the request for Public Hearings for the Miloli‘i CBSFA. Mahalo, for the opportunity to comment on this matter.
A Resolution of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

A Resolution Supporting Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area Designations and Rules

WHEREAS, Kanaka Maoli have the right of self determination. By virtue of that right we freely determine our political status and freely pursue our economic, social and cultural development, which includes determining appropriate use of our traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, artforms, and natural and biological resources1; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Legislature, 2004 Legislative Session, by Senate Resolution (SR87) Recognizing Native Hawaiians as Traditional Indigenous Knowledge Holders and Recognizing Their Collective Intellectual Property Rights stated findings that the value of Native Hawaiian traditional knowledge is exhibited in many forms, including through natural resource management principles, such as mālama ʻāina and the ahupuaʻa system; agricultural systems such as loʻi and loko iʻa; lāʻau lapaʻau; and ka hoʻokele; and

WHEREAS, less than 200 years ago, the eight main Hawaiian islands and their resources sustained a thriving and substantial Native Hawaiian population close to contemporary population numbers through a resource governance system founded on observational, experiential knowledge and tried and true, centuries-long practices; and

WHEREAS, recent research affirms that Native Hawaiians sustainably caught 50% more fish than modern Hawaiʻi fishers catch and harvested three times the maximum sustainable yield for island nations worldwide today (12 metric tons of fish per square kilometer of reef annually from the years 1400 to 1800)2; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians traditional and customary practices for sustaining fisheries were based on time tested intimate knowledge of ahupuaʻa resources which included the fishery, were adaptive and included kapu or ʻāhui on certain species (flora and fauna), temporary fishery closures, harvest limits on certain species, size, sex characteristics, natural celestial cycles and spawning times; and

WHEREAS, the gear our kūpuna used were less prone to abuse, less wasteful and less detrimental to the environment than gear used today; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and systems include aspects of community-based management and/or co-management in which the community of resource

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users itself takes part and is active and accountable in shaping the relationship with and management of their land and ocean resources; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i’s near shore fisheries play a key role in household subsistence, the statewide socio-economic fabric and the quest for food security in Hawai‘i; and

WHEREAS, beyond the provision of food, subsistence fishing contributes to largely unquantifiable and extremely valuable benefits, including: cultural and environmental ecosystem services; upholding long held community practices, values and virtues such as generosity, sharing, industriousness, self-reliance skills and practices; healthy social status and networks; communal reciprocity; and community and societal insurance, especially for Hawai‘i’s rural communities that serve as kīpuka3, or oases of our most cherished cultural legacies4; and

WHEREAS, current near shore ocean resources and systems have been compromised by overfishing, abuse of highly efficient fishing technologies, insufficient enforcement capacity or legal infrastructure, coastal development, local and global pollution, conflicting ocean uses and purposes, invasive species, continent-focused and/or over-centralized resource management paradigms and climate change; and

WHEREAS, current governmental regulatory agencies are often under-funded and under-resourced during a time of rapid human population expansion and exploitation of ocean resources are at its peak; and

WHEREAS, top-down, centralized decision making processes -though necessary in some contexts- are often insufficient, ineffective, and too simplistic as a one-size-fits-all management approach to complex and unique place-based ecosystems that would greatly benefit from local and indigenous knowledge and traditional resource management; and

WHEREAS, current studies estimate that the people of Hawai‘i are now dependent on outside resources for 85-90% of our food supply with only weeks if not days left should food imports cease; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i’s communities are concerned, possess much capacity, many resources, knowledgeable individuals and are eager to enlist these assets in collaboration with appropriate government agencies in the effort to mālama our resources; and

WHEREAS, our collective values and traditions passed down intergenerationally, by our kūpuna, are renewed, practiced, and perpetuated as essential to our cultural identity, sense of place, and sustainability as ka pae‘āina ‘o Hawai‘i (Hawaiian archipelago); and

WHEREAS, in 1984 the Miloli‘i-Ho‘opūloa Community Development Plan was completed to secure housing and fishing rights and to complete the process of consummating long-term lease


agreements with Miloliʻi residents and the State as authorized by Act 62 and reinforced by Act 83; and

WHEREAS, since the 1990s, communities at Moʻomomi (Molokaʻi), Kīpahulu (Maui), Miloliʻi, Hoʻokena, Kalapana (Hawaiʻi), Hāʻena and Hanalei (Kauaʻi) and ʻEwa, Waiʻanae (Oʻahu) among others gathered and helped establish a movement for nearshore community-fishery governance and management. This inspired the vision for networks such as Kau Kuleana (Hawaiʻi island), Maui Nui Makai Network (Maui Nui), E Alu Pū, Limu Hui (statewide) and organizations like Kuaʻāina Ulu ʻAuamo; and

WHEREAS, the founding law that set forth Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA), Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §188-22.6 was passed in 1994⁵, “(F)or the purpose of reaffirming and protecting fishing practices customarily and traditionally exercised for purposes of native Hawaiian subsistence, culture and religion”; and

WHEREAS, a two-year pilot project managed by Hawaiian Homesteaders and integrating indigenous ecological knowledge and complementary western scientific approaches to management of Moʻomomi and Kawaʻaloa Bays on Molokaʻi⁶ provided eight communities to establish their own traditional management structure and rules customized to their unique place under the CBSFA process for which they are awaiting State approval; and

WHEREAS, the founding CBSFA law, which provided for the designation of a CBSFA, inspired the enactment of other laws, HRS §188.22.7, specifically designating a CBSFA in Miloliʻi (2005; Hawaiʻi island) and HRS §188.22.9, designating a CBSFA in Hāʻena (2006; Kauaʻi island) and the current interest and active pursuit of CBSFA designation by many other communities including Hoʻokena, Kīholo and Kalapana (Hawaiʻi island), all of Molokaʻi and Lānaʻi, Kīpahulu, Mūʻolea, Polanui and Wailuku (Maui) and Kahana (Oʻahu), and Niʻihau; and

WHEREAS, the Hui Makaʻāinana o Makana (Hāʻena, Haleleʻa, Kauaʻi) with the support and participation of the larger communities in their moku and the statewide network efforts cited herein passed their CBSFA rules in 2015, have actively managed their area in partnership with the state, have seen an increase in fish populations and are now going through their five year review; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the Miloliʻi fisheries management area was designated as a community-based subsistence fishing area, as provided in HRS §188-22.76 to:

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⁵ HRS 188-22.6 was driven by the Governor’s Molokaʻi Subsistence Task Force recommendations to allow Hoʻolehua Homesteaders to manage shoreline marine resources for subsistence fishing.

(1) Ensure long-term sustainable populations of fish and other marine species; and
Encourage the scientific study and understanding of subsistence fishing management. [L 2005, c 232, section 2] (Hawaii Revised Statutes §188-22.7)

(2) Encourage the scientific study and understanding of subsistence fishing management. [L 2005, c 232, section 2]” (Hawaii Revised Statutes §188-22.7); and

WHEREAS, since 2005 Pa’a Pono Miloli’i now Kalanihale with the support and participation of the larger communities in the māhele ‘āina o Kapalilua has and continues to work diligently with stakeholders and the broader community since 2005, and draft rules from the ahupua’a of Kīpāhoehoe to Manukā, through survey, scientific research and consultations with over thousands of small and large community members, individuals, commercial interests and government agencies; and

WHEREAS, Hui Mālama o Mo’omomi (Mo’omomi, Pālā’au, Moloka’i) has been pursuing a designation and rule package for over 20 years and continues efforts to develop subsistence rules for the community fishery there; and

WHEREAS, scientific surveys of various locations around Hawai’i show that locations under community-based management with customary stewardship harbor fish biomass that is equal to or greater than that in no-take marine protected areas7; and

WHEREAS, the state of Hawai’i has recognized that we are inextricably linked with the ocean, which is central to our livelihoods, culture, health, and island lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the state of Hawai’i has also recognized that our marine environment is under pressure from a growing population, habitat destruction, unsustainable harvest, the loss of traditional practices, and warming and rising seas; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2016, at the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress in Hawai’i, and as part of the sustainable Hawai’i Initiative, governor David Ige announced the State’s commitment to effectively manage thirty percent of Hawai’i’s nearshore waters by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the Marine 30x30 Initiative focuses on developing and strengthening the essential components of effective management; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs that we call upon governmental policy makers for continued progress towards streamlining and making the process more user friendly for enlisting communities to carry out the work of sustainable community based subsistence fisheries by integrating place based and Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and values with the best practices and

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methods developed by contemporary science through the creation of community based subsistence fishing areas and rules and approaches that will benefit present and future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon policymakers to promote policies and strengthen institutional frameworks that develop cooperation and coordination, in a spirit of partnership among government at all levels with local populations and community groups; and that when there is flexibility in interpreting statutes in favor of community based subsistence resource management, to interpret it as such; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state resource policy should be consistent with the state’s public trust duties and the precautionary principle; that communities applying traditional ecological knowledge and management approaches not be unduly burdened with proving with scientific certainty in accordance with western methodologies of proof; rather that indigenous, traditional knowledge be respected on its own merit and acknowledged for its centuries proven effectiveness in restoring and maintaining natural resource sustainability, health, and abundance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to: the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, President of the Hawai‘i State Senate, Speaker of the Hawai‘i State House of Representatives, the State Senate Committees on Water and Land, and Hawaiian Affairs, the State House Committees on Water and Land, and Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, All County Mayors and County Councils, the State of Hawai‘i Board of Land and Natural Resources, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Department of Interior Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, and the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and any other entity which may be interested in or supportive of efforts to develop CBFSAs.
I hereby request to provide written testimony on the matter of Agenda Item F-2. My testimony follows.

Aloha Board members, and mahalo for accepting this testimony and for taking the time to read the testimonies submitted to you. My name is Nancy Waite Harris, and I am grandmother to two of the children of Miloli’i. It is on their behalf, and in fact on the behalf of all of the children, that I testify today.

I testify in support of the State holding a public hearing on the proposed rules package for the Miloli’i Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area. The area was designated as a CBSFA in 2005, and in 2019, proposed rules were provided to the DAR. Holding a Public Hearing is the next step to adopt those rules. I urge you to do this in order to manage and protect fish stocks, and to provide for the youth to be able to practice traditional and customary Native Hawaiian subsistence fishing practices.
Testimony of SUPPORT for a Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of the Rules Package for Miloli‘i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area

Aloha, my name is Julia Sanchez.

Today I testify in SUPPORT of the state having a public hearing on the proposed rules package for the Miloli‘i Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area.

Miloli‘i CBSFA was designated in 2005 and in 2019, Kalanihale the non-profit organization made its formal request to the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources to express its readiness to create its rules package.

I live here in Miloli‘i with my Dad and my Tutu. I am a student at Kua O Ka Lā Hīpu‘u and I do my part of kilo data collection in my classroom. I support my family’s fishing lifestyle and the work that my ‘ohana is doing for the rules.

Please let me and my ‘ohana be heard in a public hearing.

Mahalo,

Julia Sanchez
February 23, 2022

Testimony in support of a public hearing for the Miloli‘i CBSFA (Item F2, 2/25/2022)

Aloha Chair Case and members of the BLNR,

I urge you to support a public hearing for the management plan and administrative rules package for the Miloli‘i CBSFA. Many of us are anxious to testify in strong support in a public forum.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kawika Winter, PhD
Director, He‘eia National Estuarine Research reserve