

Testimony for J-2 Issuance of a revocable permit for canoe storage

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support for Ka Lahui Kai in their endeavor to secure a space to put their paddling canoes in Hawaii Kai.

Ka Lahui Kai has shown great leadership in teaching our youth the cultural practices of paddling, rigging, balancing, and building a canoe. Through Hawaiian values, they've shared taking care of our environment, working together, water safety, and caring for one another.

Having a passion such as canoe paddling has allowed clubs like Ka Lahui Kai the vehicle for teaching, learning, and building self-esteem as an individual as well as community.

New clubs like Ka Lahui Kai as well as any new club who serves the community should have a place for their canoes. One should not have to belong to a Canoe Racing Association to be allowed a site. Canoe Racing should never be a driving force for acceptance.

Since the Hui Nalu Canoe Club started in 1905 as a loosely knit group by Duke Kahanamoku, followed by the Outrigger Canoe Club, then Waikiki Surf Club, canoe paddling has grown to over sixty clubs today. These first three clubs have moved many times to different locations before getting residency where they are now. These three clubs were not about canoe racing as their mission statements attest. They were formed to strengthen individual, family, and community relationships. A place where good fellowship and Aloha prevail and finding a space for their equipment so they could foster Hawaiian culture.

If you have any questions, I am available to help answer. Mahalo for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Ka Lahui Kai.

Please reconsider the monthly rental fee of \$600.00 to be in line with all other canoe clubs at \$40.00

Mahalo,

Keone Downing