

6 June 2022

Brian Neilson
Administrator
Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)
Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
1151 Punchbowl Street
Room 330
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Miloli'i Community-based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) Rules and Management Plan

Aloha Administrator Neilson:

I strongly encourage the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to adopt a new chapter under HAR Title 13 for the Miloli'i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA), Hawai'i, to manage and protect fish stock and to reaffirm traditional and customary native Hawaiian subsistence fishing practices along the Southwest coast of Hawai'i Island, at the upcoming final hearing on June 9, 2022. I strongly support the proposed management plan and rules submitted by the Kalanihale Foundation and the 'Ohana of Miloli'i for this CBSFA.

The families of Miloli'i Village and the surrounding areas have and continue to deeply rely upon fishing and gathering of marine resources throughout this area for their subsistence, well-being, religious and cultural practices. Thus the condition and resilience of the fishery is central to ensuring that these functions continue into the future.

The area proposed for this CBSFA has undergone severe declines in reef fish over the past two and more decades. We have published more than a decade of this decline, with DAR staff using the best available long-term field data, in the nearshore fishery in internationally peer-reviewed publications. This decline occurred *despite* the fact that the reef itself remains relatively intact, especially compared to other parts of Hawai'i island and the entire State. Unlike other reefs in the State of Hawai'i, coral bleaching and climate change have *not* proven to be a major factor behind our published 65% decline in nearshore fish stocks in South Kona since 2008. For the proposed Miloli'i CBSFA area within South Kona District, land-sea pollutants (effluent) are also *not* responsible for this 65% decline in reef fish stocks. Instead, the cause of the decline *has* been overfishing, as documented in our studies and via extensive field-based observations. Furthermore,

this overfishing issue has not been principally caused by the Miloli'i Village, but rather by outside actors from all over the island, which is also documented in our field-based observation program and by the Miloli'i Makai Watch.

The proposed CBSFA is an ideal solution to address these challenges. While all areas of the CBSFA will remain open to fishing, new rules will focus on managing the types of fishing allowable, which will help to ensure the long-term sustainability of the reef fishery. The proposed management plan and rules create a win-win for Miloli'i Village and surrounding subsistence fishers, while also helping DLNR to achieve its new management commitment for the State's Holomua Marine 30x30 program. The plan achieves these multiscale goals with very reasonable rules as proposed, which will benefit the South Kona and Hawai'i Island community over the long run.

We need to manage reef ecosystems for the future of both Hawaiian and newcomer community members, and this CBSFA is an ideal management instrument for doing so. We remain committed to continued on-site scientific support of the Kalanihale Foundation, the CBSFA group, the Miloli'i 'Ohana, and their partners throughout the area.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gregory P. Asner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Gregory P. Asner PhD
Director

6 June 2022

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Administrator
Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)
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Mahalo,

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Gregory P. Asner PhD
Director



TESTIMONY

Board of Land and Natural Resources

**ITEM F1 – REQUEST FOR FINAL APPROVAL TO ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER UNDER
HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (“HAR”) AS TITLE 13 CHAPTER 60.10,
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**

Thursday, June 9, 2022, 9:00am, via Videoconference

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), submits testimony in **SUPPORT** of the rules package for the Miloli’i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA). These rules will help to empower Miloli’i to better care for its resources, so that future generations are able to know the abundance of their kūpuna. As such, CNHA humbly urges the Land Board to accept the staff recommendation to give final approval to adopt Hawai’i Administrative Rules chapter 13-60.10 Miloli’i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area, Hawai’i.

The rural Hawaiian fishing village of Miloli’i is home to kama’āina who are steadfast in traditional fishing practices and stewardship of their ‘āina. Like the kūpuna from whom they received these traditions, Miloli’i continues to rely upon fishing and gathering of marine resources for subsistence and well-being. As such, the health and resilience of the fishery is integral to ensure that subsistence, cultural, and religious practices continue for current and future generations.

CNHA expresses great appreciation to Kalanihale for their role in assembling the rules package, and for all the hard work and effort they put into engaging with the Miloli’i community, facilitating important discussions, and establishing ongoing partnerships with stakeholders, including key state and county agencies. As they bring to life the voices of their kūpuna, Kalanihale is helping to put into place a legal framework that future generations can draw upon to protect their resources and ensure abundance.

The proposed administrative rules reflects the sound rationale of Miloli’i’s traditional fishing practices, and expresses the intimate relationship they have with their ‘āina.



CNHA stands in strong support of this subsistence fishing community, and we are encouraged by the state's efforts to collaborate with Native Hawaiian communities who seek to mālama our unique aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations. By integrating the wisdom of our kūpuna into policy and decision making, in alignment with federal guidance on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge,¹ the State of Hawai'i has demonstrated its continued ability to lead in the area of conservation and resource management.

Accordingly, CNHA urges the Land Board to accept the staff recommendation to give final approval to adopt Hawai'i Administrative Rules chapter 13-60.10 Miloli'i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area, Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

J. Kūhiō Lewis, CEO
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

¹ Executive Office of the President, Memorandum on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Federal Decision Making (Nov. 15, 2021), *available at* <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/111521-OSTP-CEQ-ITEK-Memo.pdf>.

From: [Debbie Gowensmith](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Agenda Item F-1: Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under Hawaii Administrative Rules ("HAR") as Title 13 Chapter 60.10, Miloli'i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area
Date: Monday, June 6, 2022 7:25:57 AM

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

I am writing to support agenda item F-1, which requests your adoption of the Miloli'i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) rules package.

In Hawai'i, we have experienced that natural resources improve when those who live in and depend on those areas are involved in their management. This reflects results around the globe as well, as areas managed by indigenous communities simply do better. Community-based co-management also offers the benefit of moving us as a society one step further along the arc toward justice, and it facilitates the spiritual connection between people and place, culture and ancestry.

The community of Miloli'i has worked incredibly hard over the past 17+ years to arrive at this place where the vision of kūpuna such as Uncle Gilbert Kahele could be embraced by Miloli'i families and fishers. They have held the dialogues needed and arrived in a better place today. It's truly a cause for celebration.

For these reasons and many, many more, I urge you to adopt the Miloli'i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) rules package.

Mahalo a nui,
Debbie Gowensmith

From: [Charlene Holani](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Milolii CBSFA Support
Date: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 11:10:13 AM

Aloha, my name is Charlene Lucille Kalena Holani from Hilo, Hawaii. My grandmother and mother would bring my siblings and me to milolii every summer this is what fed us, where we learned our traditions of upena and diving, where we practiced our culture. In this priced out Hawaii there are very few places left untainted and MILOLII is one of them so long as we continue to sustain it as it has us. I wish to bring my great grandchildren to MILOLII. I pray they will see what I see and learn as I have.

Mahalo for this opportunity. I am testifying in support of the rules package for Miloli'i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area.

The people of Miloli'i are generational stewards of their place. They can trace their kūpuna to a time before western contact and they were well established throughout the area of Kapalilua. Today, they continue to 'auamo their kuleana to mālama 'āina, caring for the marine resources of their place. The ko'a of their coastline are still fed and maintained by 'ohana of Miloli'i, much in the manner that their kūpuna did.

CBSFA designation was granted to Miloli'i in 2005. In 2019, Kalanihale represented their subsistence fishing village, informed DLNR they were ready to create a rules package. Today, I am here providing testimony in support of the rules package.

Their traditional and customary fishing practices are reflected in the rules package, placing kapu on unsustainable harvest methods.

The landmarks used by their kūpuna are the same landmarks they use today, and some of which have become part of the rules package as boundaries for CBSFA subzones.

Miloli'i held extensive outreach, public scoping, and peer review with various communities, partners, and colleagues from fishery networks to share their narrative, marine management plan, and proposed rules.

Miloli'i set forth compelling protection standards in their narrative and rules package which align well and reflect the conservation values and needs of neighboring conservation lands.

Grounded in a common goal to provide protection for 'āina and natural resources, Miloli'i cultivated respectful and trusted relationships with agencies, partners, and communities that reflect their strong sense of mālama 'āina and supported other communities alike throughout the pae 'āina such as Hā'ena (Kaua'i), Mo'omomi (Moloka'i), Kīpahulu (Maui), and Ho'okena (Hawai'i). Miloli'i is consistent in its narrative, proposed CBSFA rules package and practices, and further demonstrates their preparedness to co-manage and co-govern the CBSFA with agencies and partners.

A CBSFA Marine Management organizational structure will be established to maintain the community's collaborative relationships with agencies and partners.

Mohala Nā Konohiki Miloli'i will represent the community's place-based knowledge and narrative, continuing their traditional methods of area

monitoring and surveying and incorporating modern methods and data. Miloli'i's CBSFA Marine Management will retain an in residence marine specialist to provide advisory support and training to Mohala Nā Konohiki.

Miloli'i is a cultural kīpuka in South Kona and its people are mauiauhonua, well established and descendants of old chiefs of Kapalilua. I support this subsistence fishing community in their kuleana to mālama 'āina and feed people now and into the future. This rules package reflects the sound rationale of their traditional fishing practices and expresses their intimate relationship they have with their 'āina.

Mahalo for your time I pray you will not let this place go unprotected,

From all the Holani Ohana

Charlene Kalena Holani

holanic@hawaii.edu

(808) 445-1280

Hui Maka'ainana O Makana

P.O Box 1225

Hanalei, HI 96714

June 7, 2022

BLNR, Dept. of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter of support for the passage of Agenda Item F-1 Request for Final Approval to adopt a New Chapter Under Hawaii Revised Rules (HAR) as Title 13 Chapter 60.10 Supporting Miloli'i CBSFA proposed rules and regulations .

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

We , the Hui Maka'ainana O Makana of Ha'ena, Kaua'i, are in strong support of Miloli'i's CBSFA pursuit and , humbly, ask for this board's final approval. This Community has been working on their rules starting in 1994 with the passage of (HRS) 188-22.6 almost thirty years ago. They have been a role model in persistence, patience, due diligence and process for the present and future community based initiatives. Their process, like Ha'ena's path, has had its share of skeptics and doubters of change. It takes courage to make changes and this world is constantly changing in many ways but our kupuna were adaptive people to changes. That thinking is what helped our people of Hawaii survive and thrive in the past. Ha'ena's CBSFA is working and like Kaupulehu is showing rebounding and increasing biomass with a little management. As I face my two year old grandson everyday, he is my reminder why we have this kuleana to insure that his generation will have fish to eat.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Presley Wann

Current President for the Hui Maka'ainana O Makana



June 9, 2022

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

Re: Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo's (KUA) Testimony in Support of Agenda Item F-1 Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under Hawaii Administrative Rules ("HAR") as Title 13 Chapter 60.10, 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 Chair Case and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR),

Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA) enthusiastically submits this letter in support of agenda item F-1 which requests your adoption of the Miloli'i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) rules package.

We are at the precipice of the beginning and end of the Miloli'i community's almost three decade CBSFA journey. We are here because of the belief, faith, work and perseverance of their generations behind us and for the youth of Miloli'i today whom carried forward the vision of their ancestors. We are here because of the kuleana and 'āina momona they wish to grant to future generations. This too is the kuleana of the BLNR.

Kua'āina 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 'āina (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 I'a (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 lawai'a community of Miloli'i and their CBSFA effort. In the late 90's and early 2000's lawai'a ohana there began to reach out to similarly situated communities across the state. Some unborn and others who sat at their elders' feet now carry that vision forward. KUA exists because of those lawai'a and 'ohana. So does the CBSFA law and Miloli'i's pre-existing 2005 designation. Indeed, Kalanihale and its community leadership, on behalf of kama'āina families and kūpuna of Miloli'i, 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 Lawai'a 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 Miloli'i and the surrounding areas continue to fish and gather 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 'āina, mālama 'āina, 'āina based education, co-management and co-governance should be lauded, celebrated, and supported. Adoption of these rules affirm that and 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.

It is important to recognize CBSFAs are not about permanent fishery closures. They are about wise, situated, adaptive and measured government and community co-governance that affirms the constitutional public trust and kuleana to uplift Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices like environmental management and governance. Some critics view these rules as too provincial, acquisitive or inappropriate for our times. This is a misnomer. These rules protect the fishery to support its health and primary interdependent community. But they do not exclude good fishers from outside who follow local rules.

It is also important to note that in the creation of a CBSFA the people most dependent on a place for food, the subsistence fishers, make the greatest sacrifice when they defer their usual harvest in the interest of an abundant fishery for future generations. This is evident in the rules the families of Miloli'i chose in regards to their precious Pāku'iku'i. To pause their connection with the ono, the taste of their place, is to think greater of their needs in the long-term.

Moreover, in the case of CBSFA co-management, communities of a place like Miloli'i also affirm and formalize their continued role in monitoring their resources on a deeper long-term basis than our government can currently do on its own. That is, community and government proactively work together in real time to regenerate their fishery and adapt their rules to changing circumstances. They hope to catch Pāku'iku'i again without fear that they could be taking the last ones. In this collaboration communities help provide the governance that makes government an effective tool for caring for our environment. This form of management is both old and new and can provide new pathways and careers for our keiki who want to stay home and care for all that feeds us.

As climate and natural resource concerns grow globally so does the understanding that indigenous and local environmental governance is a key part of citizenship in our care for island earth. Indeed, building stronger, cohesive and environmentally mindful communities is an indicator of resilience. In this sense, adoption of these rules build on Hawai'i's status as an influential global conservation leader.

Lastly, we express gratitude for the small team in DAR -and those who preceded them- that work diligently to build pathways in this process for community efforts like Miloli'i, Mo'omomi (Moloka'i), Hā'ena (Kaua'i) and Kīpahulu (Maui) despite the distractions of politics and minimal resources over the last decade. Every new CBSFA is a different experience, but it also gets better in the process, practice and relationships that are being built. Much gratitude also to this Board, its Chair for her long-held belief in community co-governance and co-management and



especially its current Hawai'i director Christopher Yuen for taking the time to reach out to Miloli'i, to visit and engage in the dialogue necessary to get to this point today. Do not give up. Press forward.

Please adopt this rule package and move it to our Governor's desk. The work has only begun.

On behalf of team KUA.

Pūpūkahi i holomua e ho'okanaka
(Let us unite to better the human condition)

Kevin K.J. Chang
Executive Director



Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea
Post Office Box 188
Hale'iwa, HI 96712

Board of Directors

Denise Antolini
Anne Chung
Sydney Covell
Bob Leinau
Jacqueline Leinau

Advisory Council

Athline Clark
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Dr. Alan Friedlander
Debbie Gowensmith
Maxx E. Phillips
Bill Quinlan
Palakiko Yagodich

Staff

*Jenny Yagodich, Director of
Educational Programs &
Makai Watch Coordinator*

Federal Nonprofit Organization
501(c)(3) FEIN 27-0855937
www.pupukeawaimea.org
info@pupukeawaimea.org

June 6, 2022

Re: BLNR Meeting June 9, 2002 Agenda Item F-1

STRONG SUPPORT for the adoption of a new chapter under Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) to establish the Miloli'i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA).

Aloha Chair Case, First Deputy Masuda, Deputy Director-Water Manuel and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As you know, Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea (MPW) is the Hawai'i non-profit organization that cares for, educates about, and protects the Pūpūkea Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD) here on the North Shore of O'ahu. We are proud to be O'ahu's first and longest-standing Makai Watch community committed to collaborating with DLNR's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement.

We are in full support of the Miloli'i CBSFA rule package. We support CBSFA's because we understand and value a community-based approach to marine conservation and co-management when it is initiated by the generational stewards of that place who continue today to care for their resources based on traditional ecological knowledge.

These stewards know their places better than anyone else and the knowledge they hold is based on hundreds of years of observation and a deep understanding of the resource itself. Their goal of protecting our fragile marine resources now, and for future generations comes from a true, selfless sense of kuleana and a desire to ensure those resources are harvested in a way that is based on reproduction and sustainability.

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea and Miloli'i, while vastly different in our issues and challenges, share in a common goal of providing protection for our marine resources, and of perpetuating lawai'a pono so that our marine resources will be abundant for generations to come. We commend them on their efforts and are committed to supporting them however we can.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide support of the Miloli'i CBSFA rules package,

Jenny Yagodich

Jenny Yagodich
Director of Educational Programs &
Makai Watch Coordinator
Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea

06 June 2022

Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)
Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 330
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Miloli'i Community-based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) Rules and Management Plan Final Approval

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources, DLNR, DAR administrators and staff:

My name is Roberta (Robin) Martin, president and co-founder of Hawai'i Marine Education and Research Center (HawaiiMERC), located in Miloli'i. The HawaiiMERC, was established in 2018 as the first community marine center on Hawai'i Island. HawaiiMERC is a State of Hawai'i and U.S. federal 501(c)3 non-profit organization created to facilitate education, conservation, and scientific investigation of the marine environment in South Kona and across Hawai'i Island. HawaiiMERC connects communities to timely scientific information on marine ecosystems and provides opportunities to connect cultural and scientific perspectives for the sustainability of reef ecosystems in Hawai'i. HawaiiMERC is focused on environmental education and community engagement. Prior to establishment of HawaiiMERC, members often came to Miloli'i to photograph and assess the reef condition. Following our establishment and witnessing egregious detrimental activities to the nearshore environment, HawaiiMERC has committed to supporting Kalanihale in the re-institution of Makai Watch and other volunteer activities to ensure the success of the Miloli'i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA).

Today, we from the HawaiiMERC, write to strongly encourage the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to approve the adoption of a new chapter under HAR Title 13 for the Miloli'i CBSFA management plan and rules.

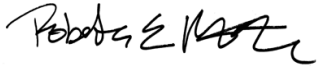
The people of Miloli'i are generational stewards of their place. They can trace their kūpuna to a time before western contact and they were well established throughout the area of Kapalilua. Today, they continue to 'auamo their kuleana to mālama 'āina, caring for the marine resources of their place. The ko'a of their coastline are still fed and maintained by 'ohana of Miloli'i, much in the manner that their kūpuna did.

- Their traditional and customary fishing practices are reflected in the rules package, placing kapu on unsustainable harvest methods.

- The landmarks used by their kūpuna are the same landmarks they use today, and some of which have become part of the rules package as boundaries for CBSFA subzones.
- Miloli‘i held extensive outreach, public scoping, and peer review with various communities, partners, and colleagues from fishery networks to share their narrative, marine management plan, and proposed rules.
- Miloli‘i set forth compelling protection standards in their narrative and rules package which align well and reflect the conservation values and needs of neighboring conservation lands.
- Grounded in a common goal to provide protection for ‘āina and natural resources, Miloli‘i cultivated respectful and trusted relationships with agencies, partners, and communities that reflect their strong sense of mālama ‘āina and supported other communities alike throughout the pae ‘āina such as Hā‘ena (Kaua‘i), Mo‘omomi (Moloka‘i), Kīpahulu (Maui), and Ho‘okena (Hawai‘i).
- Miloli‘i is consistent in its’ narrative, proposed CBSFA rules package and practices, and further demonstrates their preparedness to co-manage and co-govern the CBSFA with agencies and partners.
 - A CBSFA Marine Management organizational structure will be established to maintain the community’s collaborative relationships with agencies and partners.
 - Mohala Nā Konohiki Miloli‘i will represent the community’s place-based knowledge and narrative, continuing their traditional methods of area monitoring and surveying and incorporating modern methods and data.
 - Miloli‘i’s CBSFA Marine Management will retain an in residence marine specialist to provide advisory support and training to Mohala Nā Konohiki.

The proposed CBSFA highlights the ongoing commitment of the Miloli‘i community to the stewardship of the reefs and nearshore resources of this region for the future generations. The proposed management plan and rules create a win-win for Miloli‘i Village and surrounding subsistence fishers, while also helping DLNR to achieve its new management commitment for the State’s Holomua Marine 30x30 program. HawaiiMERC remains committed to continued support of the Kalanihale Foundation and CBSFA group and their partners throughout the area.

Mahalo for allowing me to provide this testimony of support the final approval
by the BLNR for Miloli'i CBSFA,



Roberta Martin PhD
President, HawaiiMERC
robin@hawaiiMERC.org

From: [Toby Morris](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Miloli'i
Date: Saturday, June 4, 2022 3:28:07 PM

I strongly support the CBSMA proposed for Miloli'i.

Mahalo,
Toby Morris
577A Kawaihoa Road
Kailua, HI 96734
808-306-5619

June 7, 2022

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

RE: Kelson Poepoe Testimony in **SUPPORT** of Agenda Item F-1 Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under Hawaii Administrative Rules ("HAR") as Title 13 Chapter 60.10, 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 Chair Case and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR),

My name is Mac Poepoe, and I am a kama'āina of Ho'olehua, Molokai, Hawai'i. I would like to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of Miloli'i's rules package as recommended by the community and I would like to ask that the BLNR support and accept these rules as well. Development of these rules requires a lot of time and thought to ensure that the decisions we make will sustain these resources that are under constant pressure mainly from extraction. As rules and regulations are an integral part of management practices, we sometimes forget the primary purpose of what it is designed for. Protection as well as limitations of our resources is essential for management purposes and adoption of these rules are basically what is being proposed. Some may see rules as a deterrent and try to find loopholes or even delete rules altogether which does not offer any solutions. What we must remember when we make our decisions are that these rules pertain to a specific place and have a specific purpose. The people who are dependent upon these resources from this particular place stand to lose the most and gain little in return. The greatest gain will be the protection and sustaining of the resources that the Miloli'i community is dependent upon by adoption of these rules. Mahalo for allowing me this time to share my mana'o.

Imua!



Kelson Poepoe
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June 7, 2022

Board of Land and Natural Resources
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RE: Shauna Kēhaunani Springer's Testimony in **SUPPORT** of Agenda Item F-1 Request for Final Approval to Adopt a New Chapter Under Hawaii Administrative Rules ("HAR") as Title 13 Chapter 60.10, 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 Chair Case and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR),

‘O wau nō ‘o Shauna Kēhaunani Springer, no Kaimukī, O‘ahu mai au, noho wau ma Kea‘au, moku o Keawe. I am writing this letter in support of agenda items F-1 which requests your adoption of the Miloli'i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) rules package.

The ‘ohana, lawai‘a and community of Miloli'i has worked for many decades to support sustainable marine management efforts of Miloli'i and the larger Kapalilua region. We are here now...I ka wā ma mua, i ka wā ma hope, looking to the past to secure our future. They bring forth generations of ‘ike from their kūpuna, ‘aumakua, and ‘āina and are more ready than ever to work alongside DLNR-DAR as co-managers of their precious natural resources.

Throughout the 15+ years working in marine conservation across our pae ‘āina of Hawai'i and the Pacific, I have witnessed the work of many communities and got to see how the resources has changed (and not always for the good). However, grassroots communities like Miloli'i give me hope to know that there is a new generation of practitioners who understand their environment and want to leave it in a better situation for the future generations. They are looking to continually feed and be fed.

Please adopt this rules package, e holomua kākou!

He leo ha‘aha‘a wale nō, mahalo



Shauna Kēhaunani Springer
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Aloha:

My name is Charles Young. I reside in Kealia in the region of Kapalilua South Kona Hawaii. I write in support of the proposed rules package and management plan for the Milolii Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area designated boundaries.

I was privileged to have fished alongside the fishermen from Milolii and to have learned from many of the fishermen and their families. My testimony is not centered on “what had” vs “what get”. We all know the resources have diminished. I’m not focusing in on the premise that “western science” is at odds with “local knowledge” or that this is “culture” vs commercial”. We all know that the resources have diminished and that a solution can’t be defined in one word.

In 1998 the Hawaii State Legislature under the leaderships of Hawaii Island Rep. Dave Tarnas created Act 306 that established the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area (WHRFMA) which extends from South Point to Upolu Point. Today Act 306 and the establishment of the WHRFMA along with its’ supporting advisory group, the West Hawaii Fisheries Council still stands out as among the most progressive move toward community-based resource stewardship. Members from the Milolii community along with many other fishing communities from the region participated in the process that lead up to the final passage of Act 306. Over 1,000 people attended the public hearing in Kailua-Kona to show support for the measure. In North Kona at Kaupulehu, the Try Wait initiative is about ½ way through its’ 10-year mandatory closure and the initial results are showing that the near shore fish populations are rebounding after years of overfishing and lack of sound management practices. My point is that Milolii’s proposal builds upon a vision that the State itself adopted many years ago and that vision was to better manage the marine resources within the West Hawaii Regional Fisheries Management Area. The community of Milolii is stepping up and taking responsibility to better manage a significant portion of the southern region of the WHRFMA.

Why is the community of Milolii ideally suited for this work? The designated boundaries for the CBSFA are the traditional fishing boundaries for the village as explained to me and shown to me by the local fishermen when I was first introduced into the fishing community. All that the village needed was to be found within those boundaries. The families have fished this area for centuries, they know the grounds and their ancestors developed the management practices that has sustained the village into modern times. I believe they have never relinquished that Kuleana. I trust the Board takes into consideration the intrinsic connections to place that are inherent in the villagers and the challenges they face should those connections be lost.

Let me focus in on the word “subsistence” for a moment. In my opinion this is probably the most defining word in the title Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area. As one who has fished for the table all my life, subsistence means having enough to feed myself and my family. It means not taking more than I need so that there will be an abundance for future use. Within this context, the management plan aims to protect, manage and assure that the resources, particularly those resources that have been traditionally and customarily gathered are sustained. In this regard special consideration must be given to native Hawaiian gather rights as protected under the State Constitution. Some have expressed a concern that this sets up a basis for exclusion. However, if we all are to subsist, the resource must be managed to that level. Again, everyone agrees that the resources have diminished under the current management practices. While subsistence defines a usage, the term abundance should define the management goal. ‘Aina Momona.

In summary, as members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources you have before you a decision that will further the resource management goals of the Milolii community, its neighboring communities, the 30x30 initiative and the West Hawaii Regional Fisheries Management Area to better manage our resources as well as further the goals of the Board of Land and Natural Resources as set forth in 1998 by the legislature through Act 306.

Mahalo

Charles Young

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