

From: [Sara Bill](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mala Boat Ramp Use
Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022 12:38:17 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern about the increase in commercial activity taking place at Mala Boat Ramp. As a resident of Lahaina, each day I encounter challenges with too many cars on the road, limited infrastructure and overcrowded parking lots and intersections. Areas that have been popular locations for our local community are now being exploited for profit and tourism.

This area of Mala should be focused on local community use, fishing and beach goers - not for commercial use. There are other areas such as Lahaina Harbor and Ma'alaea Harbor that are specifically for high volume, commercial use. Each time the community sits back and does not voice our concerns, the more places like Mala will start to slip away and we will never get them back. Additionally, there continues to be challenges with parking, restroom facilities and overuse of these areas - this is not sustainable and not the intended use of the space.

On behalf of our family, we urge you to listen to the voices of our community and those NOT looking to profit off this area - and do the right thing. These businesses can run their tours out of the other, larger harbors where there is appropriate infrastructure and regulations.

Mahalo,
Sara Bill & Kaliko Leialoha-Dutro
Lahaina Residents

From: [Kaitlin Brewer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] J1 & J2
Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022 3:33:14 PM

Aloha

Mala is completely over run by commercial operators and tourists. It's a horrible idea to build more parking to accommodate tourism. This will just open the floodgates for more unwanted tourism. The state needs to decrease the use at the ramp and not increase it. Conditions should be placed on existing permits to limit the amount of tours and parking at the harbor. The state should immediately ban the issuance of shoreline permits to dive and snorkeling companies who create unsafe hazards to boats and are destroying the reef as they walk out with reef walkers. Please support the local recreational users and native Hawaiian subsistence gatherers in limiting commercial activity.

Mahalo

From: [Hazel Cappal](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on j-1 and j-2
Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022 2:50:11 PM

To whom this may concern,

Aloha! My name is Hazel Cappal and I was born and raised here in Lahaina. I am testifying on item J-1 and J-2.

I have many fond memories of myself at Mala beach and the boat ramp. Since those childhood days, I have seen a drastic change in the environment and surrounding areas, due to the overuse and overexploitation of the beach and the natural resources surrounding it. In the last 10 years Mala has become over run with an increased amount of commercial activity and tourists alike. It has become very difficult to find parking and the increased use of this area that our local community holds dear to our hearts, is impacting the near shore environment.

I strongly oppose against these agendas and the State building more parking! I kindly ask that you reconsider what your plans are; discontinue excessive commercial vendors and shoreline permits, as these increased use for operations and activities will cause a significant negative impact on our community.

Mahalo,

Hazel Cappal
Lahaina

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Mahealani Medeiros-Criste](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposes Mala parking
Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022 2:22:07 PM

Aloha to whom it may concern,

I Mahealani Medeiros-Criste born and raised in Lahaina oppose to agendas J-1 & J-2. ImWe need to focus on the community needs more than tourists wants.

Mahalo for you time
Mahealani Medeiros-Criste

From: [Yvonne Felix](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mala Harbor
Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022 1:11:06 PM

To whom it may concern,

I would like to offer my testimony in regarding the Mala Ramp in Lahaina.

While I understand there is a parking dilemma due to a continuing overuse of commercial activities impacting an area that was not designated to accommodate the high visitor use numbers, I strongly oppose the creation of an overflow parking lot designated at the Mala Harbor.

The encroachment upon sensitive Coastal and cultural areas is the main reason for my opposition. I also feel the quality of experiencing mala ramp has been downgraded because of the high impact of visitor use.

Thank you for your consideration, sincerely Yvonne Felix

From: [Paele Kiakona](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on J-1 & J-2
Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022 12:24:41 PM

Aloha,

I am testifying on J-1 and J-2. I am a resident that lives near mala boat ramp and partake in recreational fishing from mala along with gathering resources and practicing my Hawaiian culture. In the recent years I have seen mala transform into an over commercialized hot spot with a grotesque amount of people flooding yet another local spot. We as fisherman and native Hawaiians, that grew up in mala, now must compete with the absurdity taking place by the over commercialization of Māla Harbor. Launching and docking boats and canoes have gotten exponentially longer due to the loading and unloading of boats full of visitors. This makes it difficult to get in and out in a timely matter. Parking trailers along with vehicles is nearly impossible, not due to the lack of parking, but due to the lack of regulations on permitted commercial users and the over exploitation of this area. The absurd number of snorkelers just offshore has made the ingress/egress in and out of the harbor very dangerous and the potential for serious injury and accidents is at an all-time high. Aside from the visitors themselves, the commercial vessels anchoring and mooring just offshore cause irreversible damage to the reef. Anchors and moorings usually have chains connected to them. As the tides drop the slack on the lines increase and the anchor line begins to sag down to the ocean floor. With this low tide and the shifting in currents, the chains drag on the ground and the weight and hard surface of the chains scrape along the reef tearing it to pieces. Recently I have seen with my own eyes, reef transformed into rubble due to this. Apart from the boats crushing coral heads and reefs, scuba dive company instructors are walking on these reefs as they go in and out of māla. The once luscious forest-like reef full of vibrant colors and fish now look like the aftermath of the war in Ukraine. It is now a reef graveyard that resembles rubble and tarnished buildings after a bomb exploded. This is an existential threat to our source of nourishment because as the reef continue to diminish and die off from warming and polluted waters, coral bleaching via sunscreen and suntan lotion, coral grinding due to anchors/moorings placed there by commercial entities and trampling by visitors that resemble the trampling of invasive ungulates on native species mauka of the ocean, this “forest” can no longer sustain the fish that we feed off of. Aside from the damage caused by negligent behavior, we have even seen local fishermen damage their own vessels trying to launch and dock at the boat ramp. The number of commercial boats coming in and out, which greatly outnumber the amount of local fishermen, power on and off their trailers causing sand, suit and debris to be swirled around and build up on one side of the boat ramp. This causes trailers to go in at an angle and even make the boat ramp shallower than before. The result is vehicles with trailers having to reverse in difficult angles and even having to reverse further into the ocean. This causes damage to our vehicles and with the angled trailer our boats and even trailers get banged up and damaged. That takes a toll on our livelihood of native hawaiians who are just trying to survive in these difficult times.

Mala needs management now more than it ever did before and urge our state to revisit and revise the permits issued to commercial users and place conditions that address the locals' concerns, ban mooring off the Mala shores to commercial entities and stop issuing more permits to scuba dive companies and making sure they are operating with the ocean's health and wellbeing in mind. The state's plan to create more parking will not help to solve the issue but instead enable commercial users to exploit this area even more. Aside from this I strongly urge DOBOR to meet with residents and the Lahaina community to help come up with solutions to address these issues.

Māla, meaning to garden, was given its name because this area was like a garden bed full of life and food but if you change the pronunciation of Māla into Mala, it means aching after an unaccustomed action or exercise. Unfortunately, Māla has been transformed to a place of Mala. Our community is aching and so is our reef and resources.

--

Pā'ele Kiakona

Cell Phone: (808)990-4096

Email: paele@hawaii.edu

1381 B Front St, Lahaina, HI

From: [Tiare lawrence](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Mala
Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022 11:50:15 AM
Attachments: [image0.png](#)

J1 & J2

Building a parking lot to accommodate this would be an epic failure by the state. The state does very little to enforce the illegal activity at Mala Boat Ramp.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tiare lawrence** <tiare4maui@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 12, 2022 at 1:21 PM
Subject: Mala
To: Ed R Underwood <ed.r.underwood@hawaii.gov>, Meghan L Statts <meghan.l.statts@hawaii.gov>, <dlnr@hawaii.gov>

Here's another for profit company exploiting the reef at Mala wharf in a hazardous area next to the ingress egress zone of Mala boat ramp.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Banyan Tree Divers Maui](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony BLNR Meeting July 8th, 2022 Items J 1&2
Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022 4:18:19 PM

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

My name is Caitlin Maratea. I am writing on behalf of Banyan Tree Divers Maui regarding items J 1&2 on the agenda for Friday, July 8th 2022. I write to you in favor of securing the land behind the public restrooms at Mala Wharf for additional parking.

J1: It is well-known that Mala Wharf is a busy area, and is in desperate need of more parking for members of the community and commercial operators alike. Opening up that land to parking would allow space for more boat trailers, provide more spaces for beach goers, and if available to commercial operators with permits, would decongest the current parking area available to permitted companies.

We would like to thank DOBOR and the board for considering this necessary step toward solving the parking congestion issue at Mala Wharf. We support a thorough environmental assessment to ensure that burial grounds are not disturbed.

J2: Since our company is a shore diving company, and does not use Mala Ramp itself, I am going to address the concerns regarding shoreline commercial use of Mala Wharf.

1. Parking and use of limited space has been the main complaint pertaining to shoreline operators. Banyan Tree Divers Maui is one of the small number of shoreline permit holders for Mala Wharf. As stipulated in our permit, we do not park anywhere near the main parking area, nor do we allow our guests to park there. We are parked for a total of two hours when we visit, and do not run multiple dives in one day. All equipment is kept tidy in our vehicle, and if we need to set equipment on the ground for a moment, we do so in the direct vicinity of our vehicle. We rinse all of our equipment at our headquarters and do not even encourage our guests to use the public outdoor shower, as we have one of our own to provide.

While we adhere to these practices, and witness other permit holders doing the same, we do see some shoreline commercial operators and unguided recreational divers taking up unnecessary space in the main parking and boat rinse areas. It is our prediction that many of these issues will be resolved when only permitted companies who are aware of the rules surrounding the use of Mala Wharf are operating there.

2. It is undeniable that commercial and non-commercial use of Mala Wharf has grown in recent years. Community members should not have to feel like they are being pushed out of places that they and their families have been enjoying for generations. For this reason, we support a limit on the number of future permits issued to boat and shoreline operators, as well as enforcement of them. There are currently a number of non-permitted dive and snorkel companies using the wharf commercially. We acknowledge that the DLNR has been checking permits more frequently in the recent weeks, and we welcome the continued effort.

3. It has been proposed that shoreline SCUBA companies pose a threat to the reef. A short assessment of the area will prove that there is no live coral in the near shore area along the pier, and divers are not trampling on live coral in order to access the dive site. In fact, SCUBA

divers rarely leave the water without picking up trash discarded from the boats above. We spend a great deal of time teaching our students about reef and ocean stewardship, and often host land and underwater cleanups. The complaint that divers are damaging coral by walking along the pier is entirely false.

In closing, our company provides a safe, educational, and valuable service to both visitors to Maui and community members. We are well-established and are responding to a demand that is not simply going to disappear. We welcome reasonable solutions to the concerns put forth by the community and we also stand firm in our right to exist as a small business in Lahaina.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Maratea

Banyan Tree Divers Maui LLC

From: [Kahiks ."](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLNR/DLNR agenda item J-1 & J-2 - testimony
Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022 1:10:37 PM

Aloha Chair Case & Board members,

Mahalo for listening to our concerns that are important to us, WE the people of this place.

BLNR agenda item J-1, to exempt the Mala parking lot project near Mala Wharf, Lahaina:

I ask that you do not pronounce the parking lot project of Mala Wharf exempt from any laws or requirements in relation to environmental assessments. There are multiple burials known and unknown in the proposed project area. Doing so will more than likely disturb iwi kupuna, kanaka maoli and kanaka haole. Every precaution should be taken at all cost, in respect to them as they are our most precious resource, laying in their final resting place. Constructing additional parking in such a sensitive area will only have a negative effect on them and the surrounding areas nearby.

By allowing an exemption to this project from all statutes and administrative rules will worsen existing problems in our Maui community regarding transparency and equitable representation of environmental concerns, public trust issues and undermining of traditional and cultural practices and customary rights.

The mismanagement of our Mala/Alamihi area which has caused a persistent controversy and multiple contested cases heeds the Board to act conscientiously and assiduously by requiring this project to pilot the research necessary to produce an Environmental Impact Statement prior to any fashioning.

In the same way, I ask the Board to require HAR Title 11, Ch 200.1 is fulfilled to this project to protect the people's interests via our system of environmental review at both County and State levels so all parties may be certain that all environmental factors are given serious thought and consideration in the decision making along with technical and economic deliberation.

BLNR agenda Item J-2:

Please don't continue to accommodate unwanted tourist-like attractions and commercial activities at Mala Wharf. Reserve this ramp for local and cultural activities instead. Myself and the majority of the Lahaina community continue to express this time and time again and we continue to be ignored. Think about our keiki today and our future generations to come, what will be left for them when all you folks care about is capital gain. There is food for us to eat and a place where we can gain a piece of mind in this insensitive and selfish world we are living in today.

Mahalo once again for listening to the concerns of the people born and raised here.

Kahikilaniwahinemaika'i'opuna Niles
Mala/Alamihi