

From: [Clark Carr](#)
To: [Ferreira, Darlene S](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DKC Suppoprt
Date: Saturday, September 17, 2022 6:17:22 AM

To who it may concern

I Clark Carr fully support the destination Kona Coast request for a 1 year waiver of as described in agenda J.1.

I am a transportation provider on the Kona side of the Big Island and **with out DKC there would be no direction for our thousands of arriving passengers to the Kuala Pier**

Clark Carr
808-960-1260

STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD 2022 9:15AM

Aloha Land Board Directors,

E Komo Mai

Aloha, my name is Marie Aguilar, I am the Vice President of Destination Kona Coast. I am the proposal writer for all grants with Hawai`i Tourism Authority and the County of Hawai`i. for the Greeting Program on the Kailua Pier for over 15 years.

Please let me introduce Destination Kona Coast a nonprofit organization a 501 c 6. Our organization which is a volunteer Board of Directors and volunteer greeters who have provided greeting for cruise ships since 1994. Our Hawaiian musicians play for three hours, and a hula soloist begin in the fall. Our Aloha Greeting and Information Booth provides valuable history site info and activities to visitors.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present our request to the Board. Today, we request your support for the continuance of our Contract with Hawai`i Tourism Authority's Kahea Harbor Greeting program and the waiver of rent of \$900 a month while our organization receives its 501. C 3 status. (Filing of 1023 will be covered by DKC Treasurer) Our membership drive is a work in process due to the pandemic.

This year the cruise ships returned to the Kailua Pier after a two year pause for COVID pandemic. We are scheduled to greet over 60 ships this year with a passenger count and crew count of totaling over 179,000 visitors.

We are in the process of donating our recent purchase of three (3) 20 ft x 30ft tents to the State of Hawai`i. DLNR for the Kailua Pier. Their purchase price is \$23,500.with matching funds from Kailua Village Business Improvement District. In 2006 our fundraiser allowed us to install a \$45,000 tent pavilion - 20ft x 90ft. which was removed due to unsafe conditions on the pier in 2021. Kailua Pier must have shade to shelter from the sun.

Our goal for Destination Kona Coast is to continue our greetings program on the Kailua Pier. We have an opportunity with HTA to renew through 2026 with our requirements met. With a 501 c 3 our organization will continue to expand its Native Hawaiian Cultural program with a historian to lecture at Ahu`ena Heiau~ Kamakahonu Historic Landmark, interpretive Hula with a Halau, and demonstrate their traditional crafts, like lauhala.

Our program benefits our community, and our community supports this program for 26 active years. Mahalo for your kokua today, we are the stewards of the Kailua Pier, and our dedicated work speaks for itself.

Malama Hawai`i



Hawaii Island Economic
Development Board

22 September 2022

Suzanne Case, Chair
Board of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621,
Honolulu, HI 96809

Submitted via email: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

RE: Item J-I: Issuance of a Revocable Permit to Destination Kona Coast located at Kailua-Kona Pier, North Kona, Island of Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3)7-5-006:039 and Declare Project Exempt from Requirements Of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes and Title 11, Chapter 200.1, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

Aloha Chair Case,

Destination Kona is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit association that has greeted cruise ships and provided valuable guest services including welcoming ashore with Hawaii music. Grants from the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) and County of Hawaii Department of Research and Development support this Aloha program.

Because of the heat in Kailua-Kona, shade is important and Destination Kona had installed semi-permanent shade structures at the pier which were in place for fifteen years, until removal just prior to the pandemic as the structures had sustained damage over time, were worn and unsightly. Funds for purchase of replacement shade structures have been provided by Kailua Village Business Improvement District and the Island of Hawaii Visitors Bureau.

It is our understanding that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is now requiring a monthly fee of \$ 900.00 (annually \$ 10,800) in order to allow the installation of replacement shade structures which are also used by the community for other activities.

Recovery from the devastating economic impacts of the pandemic and loss of visitors to Kailua-Kona is critically important and cruise ships are an important component to those recovery efforts. We humbly request that these efforts not be made more challenging by the imposition of such fees that have not been in place prior to the pandemic, and seek to have the project declared exempt from the requirements noted above.

Sincerely,

Jacqui Hoover

Phone: (808) 935-2180 Fax: (808) 443-0873
Mail: 67-1185 Mamalahoa Hwy, Unit D104 #353, Kamuela, HI 96743
E-mail: hiedb@hiedb.org Website: www.hiedb.org



September 21, 2022

Suzanne Case
Chair, Department of Land & Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

RE: Item J-1: Issurance of a Revocable Permit to Destination Kona Coast located at Kailua-Kona Pier, North Kona, Island of Hawaii, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 7-5-006:039 and

Declare Project Exempt from requirements of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes and Title 11, Chapter 200.1, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

Aloha Chair Case,

The all-volunteer, not -for-profit entity, Destination Kona Coast has provided Historic Kailua Village with a much-needed service for the past 28 years. Destination Kona Coast has greeted every cruise ship and their passengers arriving at Kailua Bay during this time with a Hawaiian music greeting on the pier and provided needed cruise ship guest services through their Aloha Visitor Information Booth.

Destination Kona Coast is wholly funded by member dues and provides services on Kailua Pier through grants from the Hawaii Tourism Authority and the County of Hawaii Department of Research and Development.

As you may already know, Destination Kona Coast provided semi-permanent shade structures on Kailua Pier that were in use for over 15 years. Just prior to the pandemic, these shade structures were taken down for safety reasons. There was no reason to have any shade structures on the pier during the pandemic as cruise ship travel and pier use with special events stopped. We believe that the need for these shade structures is due to the lack of covered shelter facilities, that DLNR/DOBOR had planned to construct a number of years ago, that have been delayed indefinitely.

With a new normality underway and visitors returning, Destination Kona Coast started to fundraise to find the needed monies to fund new shade structures (tents) for Kailua Pier. In addition to providing needed shade for cruise ship passengers, these shade structures are used by other events in Kona including IRONMAN World Championship, Queen Liliuokalani Long Distance Canoe Races, Kona Coffee Cultural Festival, King Kamehameha Day Canoe Regatta, Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament and Kailua Village Business Improvement District's Kailua Kalikimaka Lighted Boat Parade in December.

Understanding the need for the shade structures, the Kailua Village Business Improvement District and the Island of Hawaii Visitors Bureau provided the needed funds to purchase the new shade structures.

While imposing a fee to lease a portion of Kailua Pier for commercial entities is warranted, I hope you and the Board will agree with me that it is inappropriate in this case for a non-profit entity providing a needed service to the community.

Destination Kona Coast has not previously paid a fee during the past 28 years of greeting cruise ships on Kailua Pier. We understand that one of the issues your staff has raised is that their current tax designation is 501(c)6 which had been in place for many years. We understand that in order for Destination Kona Coast to be eligible for the "no rent/minimum allowable rent", they need to be designated as a 501(c)3. It is our understanding that due to this requirement, Destination Kona Coast will be submitting their application for this designation by this Thursday, September 22, 2022. Due to federal processing protocols, we understand that this approval may take between six months and a year, before it is received.

As you might expect, the proposed \$900 per month fee (\$10,800 annually) would provide an undue financial burden and could possibly cause Destination Kona Coast to cease providing cruise ship greetings on Kailua Pier.

Please consider a compromise to waive the \$900 per month fee whereby Destination Kona Coast can continue to do the great work that they do on Kailua Pier in Historic Kailua Village.

Mahalo for your consideration and kokua,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross Birch", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ross Birch
Executive Director

From: [Cindi Punihaoale](#)
To: [Ferreira, Darlene S](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of DKC
Date: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:36:36 PM

Aloha e Darlene Ferreira

The Kohala Center's Kahalu'u Bay Education Center is in full support of DKC's Greetings Program on the Kailua Pier in Kailua Kona, Hawai'i. We are also in favor of a 1 year waiver of fees as described in Agenda J.1. while DKC obtain a 501C3 Tax exception.

Mahalo nui loa

Cynthia Punihaoale Kennedy
Director
Kahalu`u Bay Education Center
The Kohala Center
P.O Box 437462
Kamuela, HI 96743
808 895-1010 mobile
808 887-6411 office
Facebook.com/kahaluubay
www.kohalacenter.org/kbec

From: jeanne@segwayofhawaii.com
To: [Ferreira, Darlene S](#)
Cc: [Jeanne](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for DKC
Date: Monday, September 19, 2022 2:21:08 AM

Aloha Ms. Ferreira,

I am writing to you to express our support for Destination Kona Coast for a one-year waiver of fees as described in Agenda J.1.

This organization does a great job of helping and guiding visitors in the Kona Village & Pier.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeanne

Jeanne Datz Rice
Owner
SEGWAY of HAWAII
808-741-2815

Sent from my iPhone

STATE OF HAWAII

BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2022, AT 9:15AM

9/20/2022

Re: Agenda Item J.1.

Aloha Land Board Directors,

My name is Mark Shultise and am a Member of the Destination Kona Coast Board of Directors.

We have been seeking a 501 (c) (3) determination and know of no reason we will not be granted approval by the IRS.

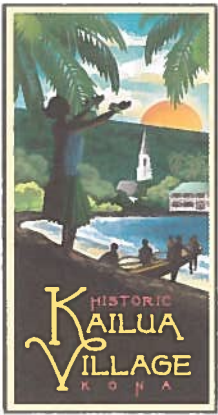
As written in our letter to you, we agree to donate the recently purchased tents to be used by needed organizations on the pier.

Destination Kona Coast has been greeting visitors to our Kailua-Kona Community for over 28 years with information and entertainment and we will continue to do that. Due to COVID, our State and County grants and membership fees were limited. It does seem odd that we are being asked to take the majority of these Government grants and direct them to a different Government entity. If we are required to do that, I fear we would have to suspend or eliminate our greeting program. If that is the case, the only venues or excursions cruise ship visitors would know of would be those contracted for on board ship to the detriment of many local vendors.

Our hope is that you will be able to help by waiving any fee/rent while we await the IRS determination.

Respectfully,

Mark Shultise



September 19, 2022

Suzanne Case
Chair, Department of Land & Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

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Mahalo for your consideration and kokua,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RW", with a large closing parenthesis at the end.

Ross Wilson Jr.
Executive Director