



March 23, 2023

Board of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii
Email: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Re: March 24th, 2023 Agenda Item: D-4. -Support
Lease to Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center at Kalauha'iha'i Fishpond (1) 3-7-002:018 and 077).

Aloha Chairperson Chang and Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for a direct lease to the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center (MFHC) at Kalauha'iha'i Fishpond for "Conservation, Biological and Cultural Revitalization, Education and Scientific Research Purposes".

This small loko i'a was long written off as ruined after the highway widening of the 1990's. Today there is tremendous hope for the future. Since 2007, MFHC has led the effort for restoration and community stewardship of Kalauha'iha'i and the nearby Kānewai Spring. Many schools and community members have been a part of this restoration over the years. Kalauha'iha'i is an ancient place where Hawaiian culture and knowledge is being actively perpetuated. The site is also a place where students and scientists and engineers are actively researching to find answers and understanding to the hydrological problems that exist.

Having a direct lease to the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center will greatly strengthen the community efforts at Kalauha'iha'i and provide a solid foundation for these efforts to continue. MFHC has secured substantial federal habitat restoration funds with the help of Senator Schatz that will be able available for Kalauha'iha'i. With the help of Rep. Hashem, engineering repairs to the broken water flow are also in progress at the State level. We humbly request the Board's support of the 30 year lease to the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center so that our island community can continue to care for and learn at Kalauha'iha'i.

Me ke ha'a ha'a,

Chris Cramer

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