



## Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea

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March 23, 2023

Testimony resubmitted on April 13, 2023

Dawn Chang, Chair; Members  
Board of Land & Natural Resources  
1151 Punchbowl Street Room 330  
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April 14, 2023 ~~March 24, 2023~~ Board Agenda: Division of Aquatic Resources – Item F-1: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF POLICY FOR USING THE DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES LOGO ON INFORMATIONAL SIGNS

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

**Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea (MPW) strongly supports the adoption of the policy and process proposed by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) for use of its logo on informational signs.**

MPW is a Hawai'i non-profit organization founded on the North Shore of O'ahu in 2005. Our mission is "working to replenish and sustain the natural and cultural resources of the Pūpūkea and Waimea ahupua'a for present and future generations through active community stewardship, education, and partnerships."

For eighteen years, we have focused our stewardship and education efforts on the Pūpūkea Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD), created in 1983, one of only three MLCDs on O'ahu and eleven statewide. This year, we join DLNR in celebrating the **40th Anniversary of the Pūpūkea MLCD!**

For many years, we have partnered with DAR, and the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE), on a number of initiatives, including Makai Watch, a (currently in progress) first-ever Management Plan for the MLCD under the Holomua Program, and (soon) implementation of Act 31 (2022), the three-year Carrying Capacity Program for the MLCD. And, importantly, **educational signage.**

As the DAR Board submittal indicates, MPW is proposing to replace the worn-out educational DAR "Reef Etiquette" signs that were installed in Pūpūkea Beach Park fronting the MLCD in 2012 as part of a statewide DAR program that installed 50 such signs (in partnership with Maui-based non-profit CORAL), to raise awareness about impacts of human use on coral reef ecosystems.

**Although DAR is legally responsible for the signs, MPW partnered on the installation and is offering to replace them with new signs (and an updated design) at no cost to the State or City, and to maintain them.** The DAR logo, and division review process as proposed, ensures that the signs will have the official stamp of approval and convey accurate information to visitors and residents alike.

Mahalo for supporting this policy. MPW looks forward to submitting an application to DAR as soon as possible for the new signs.

Denise Antolini  
(Volunteer) President, MPW