



**WADE C. LEE**

MEMBER MANAGER

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FEIN 27-1944008

B.L.N.R Board Members,

We the members and employees of Haloa Aina L.L.C. are in support of the proposed Conservation Easement for the property stated below. We are enthusiastic about saving this Native Hawaiian Dryland Forest (one of the rarest ecosystems on earth) for all of the people of Hawaii and the World in perpetuity.

SUBJECT:

REQUEST THE APPROVAL OF AN ACQUISITION OF A  
PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT BY THE DIVISION OF  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE, KEALAKEKUA, SOUTH KONA,  
ISLAND OF HAWAII TAX MAP KEYS (3) 7-9-001:013, 014; and 015  
(POR)

Thank You for your time, consideration and hard work. Aloha Wade C. Lee

Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor



Deanna S. Sako  
Director

Diane Nakagawa  
Deputy Director

Hamana Ventura  
Property Manager

County of Hawai'i  
Finance Department

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May 19, 2023

Ms. Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson  
and Members of the Commission  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809

Aloha Chair Chang,

RE: Proposal to acquire a perpetual Conservation Easement over 2,733 acres located in South Kona, Island of Hawai'i. Tax Map Key No.: (3) 7-9-001:013, 014, and 015 (por.), Landowner: Hāloa 'Āina, L.L.C., a Hawai'i Limited liability company.

The County of Hawai'i supports DOFAW's proposal to permanently protect over 2,733 acres of native forest located in the South Kona region of Hawai'i Island. We support this conservation effort as it aligns with the purposes of the County's Public Access, Open Space, Natural Resources Preservation Fund. The purchase of this Conservation Easement has been approved by our County Council and our Finance Department staff has been working with the property owners to plan for this important preservation purchase.

County purchases using Public Access, Open Space, Natural Resources Preservation Fund are initiated by public suggestions of properties of interest, which are reviewed by the Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission (PONC), whose responsibility is to develop and submit to the Mayor an island-wide prioritized list of qualifying lands worthy of preservation. Following the Mayor's review, our County Council may pass a resolution authorizing the Department of Finance to negotiate with the property owner. In 2019, PONC reviewed the suggestion of the Hāloa 'Āina, L.L.C "Sandalwood Forest" conservation easement and assigned it the second highest priority for that year. Thereafter, the County Council passed Resolution 20-677 authorizing the negotiation of the purchase.

The County appreciates the participation of the State which comports with our County Charter which states "the highest and best use of this fund is to leverage the money in the fund by attracting matching funds."

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Roth".

Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Sako".

Deanna S. Sako  
Director, Department of Finance