

**From:** [linda.islandbreath.org](http://linda.islandbreath.org)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Revocable Permit to Bill DeCosta, on the agenda for 7/28/23  
**Date:** Monday, July 24, 2023 3:45:25 PM

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Date: 7/24/23

From:  
Juan Wilson and Linda Pascatore  
3769-A Akea Road  
PO Box 949  
Hanapepe, HI 96716

To: Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii

Regarding: Issuance of Revocable Permit to Bill DeCosta for Intensive Agriculture Purposes, Hanapepe, Waimea, Kauai, Tax Map Keys (4) 1-9-012:005 and 037

Note: Our home, tax map parcel 1-9-012:004, is in between the two parcels in question. We directly abut parcel 1-9-012:005, and on the other side there is a strip of Robinson land we lease which is between us and parcel 1-9-012:037

**We ask the BLNR for an environmental assessment of the impact agricultural development will have on the bird species here:**

Both DLNR lots under consideration are some of the only forested areas of Hanapepe Valley. There are a great variety of bird species living in these forests. If the lots are cleared for agriculture, all of this bird habitat will be lost.

**We ask that the property be put up for bid.**

You state that no one has expressed interest in the parcel. Over 20 years ago we wrote to the DLNR requesting information about parcel 1-9-012:005, which was not being used at the time. We asked the status of the property and to be notified when it was put up for bid. There was no response from DNLN. We have recently again expressed an interest in leasing parcel 19012005, and our neighbor Mitchell Kali has also expressed an interest in the lease. We were told that Billy DeCosta already had a temporary lease, but if it was to become long term it would go up for bid. We would like a chance to bid on that property, and we would definitely be interested in the lease. We already pay significantly more than the rent proposed for the much smaller Robinson property on the other side of our lot (1-9-012:003), which abuts the other parcel (1-9-012:037).

**If you are considering approving the lease, we ask that the DLNR grant us a buffer zone of 30 feet from our property line and driveway easement.**

Our property at 3769 Akea Road (Tax Map 1-9-012:004) and our driveway which is a non-exclusive easement through DLNR land both abut the parcel 1-9-012:005 which is being considered for a Revocable Permit to Bill DeCosta. The back of the property is bordered by Helen Kanahale's lot, 1-9-012:026. Both of our properties are residential. We fear that if this lot is cleared and used for cattle or crops, we will be subjected to beef cattle or herbicide sprayed on crops just a few feet from our homes. We also have some productive fruit trees - breadfruit, mango and bananas as well as a bee hive on a lawn we keep mowed along a 30 foot

parallel along the western edge of property line. We ask to keep that land use and will be glad to pay a proportional amount of the price that the DLNR asks of Billy Decosta.

Our understanding of the history of the Akea Road area is that when the present Hanapepe River Levy system was completed in 1966, it had a broad impact on the residential and agricultural use of the land in the valley. Prior to the levy much of the Akea road area was farmland that grew rice and taro in flooded fields. A central valley ditch took water from upstream Hanapepe River to feed those fields before it was returned to the river. That "returned" water used a now abandoned culvert that went under Akea Road. One culvert went under Akea Road near the lot next to our driveway on the land owned by Gay & Robinson (that we now lease). The other culvert is near the intersection of Akea Road and Awawa Road. It carried agricultural flood water from the approximately 8 acres of taro fields operated by Richard Corr & family. The culvert there it is now blocked. As a result when the taro fields are used the water has no place to go but to flood the area which Billy Decosta proposes to lease. If the land is cleared for cattle or crops, flooding will increase. The property near ours has already flooded several times this last winter, since the taro fields and ditch have been restored. Another issue is the specification of the fencing required to secure beef cattle. There is currently broken down barbed wire or no fence at all surrounding the property.

We respectfully request that the board take these requests and concerns into consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Juan Wilson  
Architect, Planner

Linda Pascatore  
Retired DOE Speech Pathologist