

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy  
In Support of Agenda Item C-2, "Acceptance of Hearing Master's Report and Approval and  
Recommendation to the Governor for Issuance of an Executive Order to Set Aside Existing  
Unencumbered State Lands at 'Ilio Point, Moloka'i, Tax Map Key: (2) 5-1-002:006 to the Department of  
Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife; and Issuance of an Immediate  
Management Right of Entry to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife."**

**Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources  
October 27, 2023, 9:15 AM  
Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl St., Room 132 and via Teleconference**

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) of Hawai'i and Palmyra **supports** the inclusion of 'Ilio Point in DOFAW's Natural Area Reserve System. **We ask the Board to approve of and recommend to the Governor the issuance of an executive order setting aside 'Ilio Point to DOFAW.**

'Ilio Point at the northwest tip of Moloka'i is a significant biological and geological coastal site in Hawai'i. There are 23 native plant species in the coastal vegetation, and if predators are controlled, the sand dunes would likely be key seabird habitat, as has been shown at TNC's nearby Mo'omomi Preserve. Managing 'Ilio Point will help create habitat for displaced native seabirds from the northwestern Hawaiian Islands that are succumbing to sea level rise. Protecting these birds will increase the health of the fishery by insuring healthy lands. Additionally, rare plants known only from 'Ilio Point will find protection through DOFAW management.

As we have seen coastal areas throughout the state be developed, it is vital that we protect those areas that are able to provide habitat for our native and endangered species. There are many threats to the area, such as feral ungulates, invasive plants, predator species, and unexploded ordinances. DOFAW's active management will help to manage these threats and complement TNC's Mo'omomi Preserve and the Moloka'i Land Trust's Mokio property. This will establish 2,800 acres of protected coastal habitat with over 4.5 miles of continuous conservation coastline in northwestern Moloka'i, land and seascape that extends from TNC's Mo'omomi Preserve west to 'Ilio Point.

TNC believes that community engagement is a key to successful conservation and support DLNR continuing to work with local community on determining management.

**We ask that the Board support and approve the protection of 'Ilio Point.** Mahalo for your support and stewardship of Hawai'i's natural resources.

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Palmyra is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll and has supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We forge partnerships with government, private parties, and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and for the many benefits they provide to people.*

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