

Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources

October 13, 2023 Public Hearing

Testimony on Item F:1

Request for Authorization and Approval to Issue a Special Activity Permit (SAP 2024-60) for David McInroy of the British Geological Survey, Principal Marine Geoscientist, for the Collection of Fossilized Reef Cores from Submerged Lands in State Waters off of Hawaii Island, for the Purposes of Climate Research.

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

My name is Charles Young. I reside in Kealia in the region of Kapalilua S. Kona. I am writing this testimony in opposition to the Authorization and/or Approval to Issue a Special Activity Permit (SAP 2024-60) until such time that substantive public outreach has been completed and all conditions of a Ka Pa'a Kai analysis are met so the BLNR has sufficient information to make its' decision. To my knowledge the Applicant has sent email notice to a selected group of people for comment. The notice explained the nature of the project and requested that if anyone had any questions that they may contact the applicant. No public or private meetings were offered for interested parties, which I believe would have been the preferred method particularly for those who wished to provide comment for a Ka Pa'a Kai analysis.

In its' application the Applicant states that "This outreach consists of (but is not limited to):

1. Explanation of the project's scope, aims, and research objectives;
2. Notification of dates/times when drilling operations are anticipated to occur so that fishers are able to temporarily modify their fishing activities; and
3. A commitment to share all data gathered with community leaders, community groups, and fishing organizations in an expedited manner.

The BGS has reached out to all contacts provided by DAR and has fielded, and is continuing to field, enquiries from various community members on Hawaii Island. The project's outreach team is organizing the first of possibly several live video sessions from the vessel for any interested individuals or groups to attend. The sessions will describe the project's aims, objectives, and activities, and will offer a 2-way Q&A session for participants. The offshore project team is keen to hold discussions with community leaders and groups in advance of coring within state waters on, for example, how to avoid interfering with fishing practices, and how the project can be conducted in a culturally respectful way. The first of these sessions will be arranged for the beginning of October, with the help of the West Hawaii Fishery Council". This would seem to indicate that more outreach is required and being planned. In its' Ka Pa'a Kai Analysis the Applicant states that "A traditional or customary Native Hawaiian right that could be affected by the proposed project would be fishing activity near or adjacent to the boring sites. Because each of the proposed sites will drill into submerged lands at depths of over 100 meters (approx. 330 feet), it is not anticipated that the disturbance of these submerged lands will affect any traditional or customary Native Hawaiian right as they pertain to the submerged lands themselves. I think this statement requires more clarification and much more discussion.

The outreach with the West Hawaii Fishery Council was scheduled for the Oct. meeting of the Council. I believe the BLNR would agree that a decision on October 13 would not allow any substantive dialog amongst the Council much less allow adequate time for the Council to disseminate the information to its' members and time for meaningful discussion.

I thank the BLNR for this opportunity to provide testimony and encourage board Members to defer decision making pursuant to additional and more effective public outreach.

Sincerely

Charles Young

PO Box 505

Honaunau, Hi 86726