

**From:** [RNVFishing](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item L-2  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 8:02:38 PM

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Re: Kalauha'iha'i Groundwater Flow Restoration Project

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members:

My name is Roy Morioka and a lifelong resident of Maunalua Bay currently residing at 1190 Iki Place, House A, across from Kalani High School. I am a fisherman, member of the Waialua Boat Club, Director Emeritus of the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition (HFACT), staunch supporter of the Pacific Islands Fisheries Group (PIFG) and lead researcher of its monograph "MAUNALUA BAY Reclaiming Our Failed Kuleana".

I am testifying in support of authorizing Chair Chang of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) with the Department of Transportation to restore the groundwater flow, the wai, from the mauka side of Kalaniana'ole Hwy to Kalauha'iha'i Fishpond (a.k.a Lucas Spring) and the makai side of the highway via a 6-inch pipe to run under Kalaniana'ole Hwy. This water flowed naturally prior to the widening of the highway in the early 1990's and the construction project cut-off the flow causing the near complete depletion of this wai to Kalauha'iha'i and the surrounding area of Maunalua Bay. This severe loss of fresh water has had an adverse impact on Kalauha'iha'i and the natural resources in Maunalua Bay, and consequently an adverse impact on our customary fishing and gathering practices.

The health of Maunalua' ecosystem is intrinsic to the wai (freshwater) and its coastal estuaries (muli'wai). As a resident of >70 years, I sadly witnessed the decline and decay of our coastal ecosystem and the lifeblood of Maunalua, its history and place. The urban expansion through development and land reclamation projects contributed to the decline of the bay but not as much as the loss of the aquifers that fed the essential pure wai necessary for our island coastal ecosystems that supports a myriad of flora and fauna. When the Kalaniana'ole Highway road widening project severed the wai to Kalauha'iha'i, Paiko Lagoon and Maunalua Bay that was estimated to be over a million gallons/day was lost. I strongly believe that another critical blow to the health bay following the debacle of the Hawaii Kai development by the filling of Kuapa Pond was the severing of one of its few remaining key aquifers that resulted from the Kalaniana'ole Highway road widening project and significantly contributed to the further decline in the health of the Maunalua coastal ecosystem. Gone are most of the limu and nearshore fish including the mullet and aholehole and the nursery habitat for our deepwater snappers such as the juvenile opakapaka that depend on the diatoms from the wai that flowed into Maunalua Bay. As I was researching the literature for the monograph I was heartened that our legislature funded the restoration of the wai to the pond and anxiously awaited the restoration of the flow but was dismayed when I learned of the many hurdles that have stymied the restoration of the wai at Kalauha'iha'i.

I strongly believe the restoration of the wai from mauka to makai, to Kalauha'iha'i, at even 240,000-300,000 gallons per hour at gravity is essential to reverse the adverse impacts and degradation of our coastal ecosystem that has occurred over the last 35 years and an imperative to the restore the health of Kalauha'iha'i and Maunalua Bay and critical key toward the replenishment of our resources and the revitalization of our diminishing coastal ecosystems.

As written in the "MAUNALUA BAY Reclaiming our Failed kuleana", WE the residents and trustees of Maunalua and the island of Oahu have failed our kuleana entrusted us as caretakers of our precious island heritage and legacy to ensure against the desecration of essential ecosystems of our island home through our careless disregard of living PONO. The restoration of the wai to Kalauha`iha`i is but one example to reclaim OUR KULEANA. Let's make it happen!

MAHALO A NUI LOA!

Sincerely,

Roy N, Morioka  
[rnfishing@gmail.com](mailto:rnfishing@gmail.com)  
(808) 349-9297



## Kalauha'iha'i Groundwater Flow Restoration Project

Aloha Chairperson Dawn Chang,

On behalf of Huli Hawai'i Inc, I would like to express our full support for the DLNR's & Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center's project to return the groundwater flow to Kalauha'iha'i Fishpond. Huli is a 501c3 non-profit who provides ocean education and conservation work days with public school students in the Maunalua region with the overall goal of improving the health of Maunalua Bay. Every year hundreds of students from surrounding schools like Kamiloiki, Hahaione, Niu Valley, & Kaiser participate in our programming.. Many of those students we take to Kalauha'iha'i and stress the importance of freshwater for the overall health of Maunalua and tell the story of how this specific fresh water was diverted out of the bay during the widening of the highway in the 90's. We believe that restoring this water is perhaps the single greatest thing that could help restore the health of Maunalua bay aside from stopping the sedimentation and pollution caused by our channelized streams.

This water flowed naturally prior the widening of the highway in the early 1990's and the elders in our community speak of how abundant the fisheries and reefs were prior to this time. A walk through the area today and you will see a proliferation of invasive algae that covers the reefs and the beach and results in a lack of native fish and limu. This is because the removal of the fresh water changed the chemical composition of this near shore ecosystem and created an environment that better suits invasive algae rather than our native species. This invasive algae proliferation removed the native limus that were the building blocks of the food web for the native fish species in our waters. This severe loss of fresh water has had an adverse impact on Kalauha'iha'i and the natural resources in Maunalua Bay for decades now, and consequently an adverse impact on not only the health of our ocean here in Maunalua but also our fishing and gathering practices as a community.

On Molokai the ocean is their refrigerator and they steward it as such, in Maunalua we have been treating the ocean like it is a trashcan and restoring the freshwater is the first step towards righting the wrongs of the past and changing the way we have treated this bay for decades. We believe the restoration of the wai from mauka to makai, to Kalauha'iha'i, is necessary to reverse the adverse impacts our environment has endured over the last 35 years. If restored, this water will revitalise the health of Kalauha'iha'i and Maunalua Bay, leading to the replenishment of our resources and the revival of our cultural practices. Furthermore it will bring enewed pride for wanting to properly steward this bay by our community for the generations to come. This project has the potential to not only be a huge win for the bay, but also for the community and all of the organizations and governmental departments who are responsible for helping restore this water. We are not asking for you guys to restore the water, we are begging you guys to do the right thing and help us bring back the freshwater to Kalauha'iha'i and Maunalua Bay!

Mahalo for your understanding.

Jesse Yonover & Austin Kino - Huli



*"Solutions not Complaints"*

Date: December 6, 2023

Memo to: BLNR Chair Dawn Chang

From: Damien Kenison – Kauhakō Ohana Association

Re: In Support of Kalauha'īha'ī Groundwater Flow Restoration Project

Aloha Chair Dawn Chang

My name is Damien Kenison and I live in Ho'okena, South Kona, Hawaii Island. I am a member of the Lawai'a Pono group and E Alu Pu sponsored by Kua'aina Ulu 'Auamo. Our hui, E Alu Pu, share similar goals of protecting the environment, perpetuating Hawaiian Cultural Practices

I have lived in Ho'okena for most of my life but also resided in Kuliouou, Oahu as a youth, I attended Holy Trinity School, Saint Louis High School and remember seeing Kalauha'īha'ī Fishpond not realizing what it was. It was the 1960's and many of us Hawaiians were not knowledgeable of our own cultural heritage and did not realize or care for what was happening to our 'aina until the Hawaiian Cultural Renaissance re-awakened our spirit.

As we began to see how the special places of our kupuna had become overgrown wildernesses or overdeveloped subdivisions Hawaiians have become educated in the ways of a system that necessitates the need to understand the laws that control how our land and ocean are managed. Our State Government became the konohiki that decided if a cultural site was to be restored or discarded as a valueless asset due to the greater need of the public. Utilizing laws that were enacted to protect Hawaiian Traditions, we honor our kupuna by perpetuating their 'ike through customary practice.

The historical significance of Kalauha'īha'ī Fishpond as the site of the royal kalo patch and one time summer home of King Kamehameha and Queen Ka'ahumanu's validates the efforts of the Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center. In 2021, Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center worked with Representative Mark Hashem to obtain funding in the amount of one million dollars to negotiate with the DLNR Engineering Branch to reconnect the water flow to Kalauha'īha'ī Fishpond.

The Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center has done its due diligence and are asking the BLNR for kokua to malama ka 'aina I ke kai. I write this letter in support of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center's proposed project to restore the groundwater flow of wai from the mauka side of Kalaniana'ole Hwy to Kalauha'īha'ī Fishpond.

Ke Aloha Nunui,

Damien Kenison

Kauhakō Ohana Association

Dear Chairperson Dawn Chang.

This testimony in **support** of agenda item L -2 before the BLNR Thursday 12/7/2023 hearing,

I was born and raised in Kuliouou, growing up in around Maunalua Bay. In the past the Bay provided much for the community in terms of recreation, subsistence and resources. Today it is only of a shell of it once was due to poor planning and disregard for the ahupua'a. Especially for the lack of freshwater flow to the estuary. All of the management cannot return the bay to what it was but restoring fresh water can help provide much needed resources toward recovery of the bay.

Restoring water (wai) to Maunalua Bay via Kalauha'ihai Fishpond will be the single most important thing in restoring resources to the bay. The wai is lifeline to the ecosystem no other single act can replace the resource that is so important to the ecosystem. Thank you for your time and concern in this matter.

Mahalo,

Clay Tam  
Fishermen and former resident of Maunalua Bay