



Ka Moku'aina 'O Hawai'i Aha Moku O Pae'Aina

State of Hawai'i Aha Moku

P. O. Box 621

Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Testimony of the Hawaii State Aha Moku

Board of Land and Natural Resources

Friday, April 26, 2024

9:00 a.m.

DLNR Boardroom, Kalanimoku Bldg.

STRONG SUPPORT – Agenda Item C-1

Agenda Item C-1: Request for approval of a Management Plan and Associated Environmental Assessment for the Kapapala Koa Canoe Management area, and Issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Tax Map Key (3) 9-8-001:014, Kapapala, Ka'u, Hawai'i.

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR),

On behalf of the generational and lineal descendants of the Kapapala Ahupua'a, Moku of Ka'u and the local communities that are connected to this Ahupua'a, we offer our testimony.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) strongly supports agenda item C-1 as it pertains to Kapapala Koa Canoe Management Area.

The purpose of this submittal of the DLNR Division of forestry and wildlife (DOFAW) is to provide the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) with a summary of its on-going specific plans for watershed protection, reforestation, public use and cultural resource protection. Kapapala is known by the lineal and generational descendants for providing the koa needed for *wa'a* (canoe) building. Koa growth is rapidly dwindling in the State of Hawai'i. The Ka'u Moku still has the needed forest for Koa timber but it needs management skills to perpetuate continued growth.

We believe DOFAW has the right culturally correct management plans to sustain the koa timber growth. DOFAW has been working diligently with the Kapapala Koa Canoe Working group comprised of Kupuna and residents of Ka'u, canoe clubs, cultural practitioners, canoe builders, conservationists and adjacent landowners since 2015. This has generated trust in the Kapapala Koa Canoe Management Plan and the associated Environmental Assessment which calls for a FONSI.

Pae'Aina: Moku O Keawe, Moku O Piilani, Moku O Kanaloa, Nana'i Kaula, Moloka'i Pule O'o, Moku O Kakuhihewa, Manokalanipo, Ka'Aina O Kawelonakala

We ask that the Board approve the Kapapala Koa Canoe Management Area Plan as a guiding document for managing reserve; and, that Board approval is granted for the Final Kapapala Koa Canoe Management Area Environmental Assessment and a FONSI is issued.

Respectfully yours,

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