



Hawai'i Marine Mammal Alliance Inc.
dba Hawai'i Marine Animal Response (HMAR)
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April 22, 2024

Chairperson Dawn N. S. Chang
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809

RE: Testimony in Matters Before the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources in its April 26, 2024 Meeting

IN SUPPORT of agenda items C-5 and C-6, Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Dear Chair Chang:

Hawai'i Marine Mammal Alliance dba Hawai'i Marine Animal Response (HMAR) is submitting this testimony **IN SUPPORT of Items C5 and C6** under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife section on the Board of Land and Natural Resources April 26, 2024 meeting agenda.

HMAR is the largest Hawai'i-based nonprofit organization engaged in the preservation and conservation of marine protected species through field response, rescue, stranding support, outreach, and marine debris removal on shore and in our nearshore waters. We are in our 9th year of operations and have worked to support Hawaiian monk seals, sea turtles, seabirds, and the ocean they call home through over 30 grants, contracts, permits and other agreements with federal and State of Hawai'i government agencies.

For far too long, the land owners, managers, and residents of the Marconi Point condominium property regime (the "Marconi Site") have disregarded and defied Hawai'i's laws and regulations regarding property development and natural resources protection. The two instances highlighted in these two BLNR meeting agenda items (items C5 and C6) are two examples of blatant violations at the Marconi Site, that have, and continue to, negatively impact native plants, animals, and our lands.

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the proposed actions to be taken by the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources to fine the named individuals identified in these meeting agenda items and to enforce the applicable laws and regulation in this matter. It is important that the State of Hawai'i sends a strong message that our laws and regulations regarding the protection and preservation of our lands and wildlife will be upheld.

Mahalo for considering our testimony in your decision making.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Gelman", written in a cursive style.

Jon D. Gelman
Founder and President