



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 item K-1, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands

Dear Chair Chang:

Hawai'i Marine Mammal Alliance dba Hawai'i Marine Animal Response (HMAR) is submitting this testimony **IN SUPPORT of Item K1** under the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands 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 named in the K1 agenda item have disregarded and defied Hawai'i's laws and regulations regarding property development and natural resources protection. The instances highlighted in this BLNR meeting agenda item K1 are examples of blatant violations at this location, 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 impose fines and other penalties upon the named individuals identified in this meeting agenda item 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 development of properties, and protection and preservation of our lands will be upheld.

Mahalo for considering our testimony in your decision making.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Gelman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jon D. Gelman
Founder and President