

**From:** [Rob Weltman](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Pōhakea and Hāmākualoa properties on Maui for 5/10 BLNR meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024 8:31:34 AM

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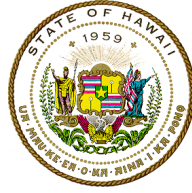
Aloha mai kākou,

For item C.2 on the 5/10/2024 agenda, I support acquiring TMK 2360010180000 (Pōhākea) and adding it to the adjoining West Maui Forest Reserve. 2360010180000 is currently to some extent a conduit for stormwater runoff that damages the coral reef of Mā‘alaea Bay and also at times a wildfire risk, with potential spreading to the populated Mā‘alaea area makai of it. Proper management as a forest reserve would enhance the recreational opportunities for residents and visitors (the popular Lahaina Pali trail passes through it) while mitigating erosion and runoff as well as fire risks through reforestation over time.

For item C.3 on the 5/10/2024 agenda, I support acquiring TMKs 2290110120000 and 2290130090000 to connect the existing mauka DLNR lands to the ocean, again providing exceptional recreational opportunities for residents and visitors while creating mauka to makai protected corridors for eventual restoration with native Hawaiian flora.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Me ke aloha,*  
*Rob*



**The Senate**  
**Ka 'Aha Kenekoa**

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

May 7, 2024

VIA: ELECTRONIC MAIL

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
1151 Punchbowl St., Room 132  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: MĀ'ALAEA MAUKA/PŌHAKEA WATERSHED ACQUISITION**

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Board:

As the Hawaii State Senator for District 6 – West Maui, Mā'alea, Waikapū, and South Maui, I strongly support the proposed purchase of Mā'alea Mauka/Pōhakea Watershed lands. The purchase of these lands to expand the state forest reserve is an absolute necessity for the future well-being and safety of the West Maui community.

These lands are deeply entrenched with Hawaiian history that connects our local community to their ancestors. The Lahaina Pali Trail, known by the local community as “Kings Trail”, is a 500-year-old trail that was used to connect West side communities to the central valley. This project will enhance public access, allowing community members to walk in the footsteps of their ancestors. These lands could serve as both an educational and recreational site for the community to connect with its enriched history via existing cultural resources and hiking trails. It is essential for our future generations that we as a community value the importance of prioritizing Hawai'i's history, landscapes, and resources.

In addition, these lands will provide various social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Maui, and our state. Social opportunities may include educational and community volunteer programs. Opening the land to the public for recreation could provide for additional economic growth throughout the local community. Lastly, these lands will enhance the Division of Forestry and Wildlife's ability to manage the watershed from mauka to makai, restore native plant and animal life, improve fire breaks and wildfire resiliency, and reduce stormwater runoff and erosion which negatively affects Mā'alea Bay and its corals.

Senator Angus L. K. McKelvey  
Senate District 6 – West Maui, Mā'alea, Waikapū, South Maui  
415 South Beretania St., Room 223  
Honolulu, Hawaii • 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-6070 • Email: [senmckelvey@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senmckelvey@capitol.hawaii.gov)

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I thank you in advance for your consideration and urge the Board to approve the acquisition of the Mā'alaea Mauka/Pōhakea Watershed lands. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 586-6070

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AMK', written over a horizontal line.

Angus L.K. McKelvey  
Hawaii State Senator  
District 6

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SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII  
MAUI GROUP

To: BLNR Members and staff

May 7, 2024

From: Sierra Club Maui Group

Re: item C.2 on the 5/10/2024 agenda

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members and Staff

Sierra Club Maui strongly supports the state's acquisition of the Pohakea lands (TMK (2)-3-6-001-018-0000) adjacent to the state's 4,000 acres of Pohakea watershed lands. This 256.903 acre coastal plain was deemed worthy of support by the state's Legacy Lands Commission due to its outstanding conservation values. We also support the issuance of the post-closing Management Right of Entry to State Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) and delegation to the DOFAW branch manager to issue permits for use of public facilities. We appreciate the public meeting on Maui being held.

Public acquisition and management of the Pohakea lands is a key component to longterm reduction of wild fire hazard and erosional run-off into Ma'alaea Bay. The alluvial plain lands of Pohakea, that lie at the base of steep slopes, have many natural drainage ways that carry huge amounts of silt-laden stormwater into Ma'alaea bay. The acquisition is widely supported by community groups and the Maui County Council. The land was recommended to be shifted from "Agricultural" to "Conservation" status in the Draft South Maui Community Plan update last year.

As the "gateway to West Maui) for all residents and visitors, it offers iconic views of Mauna Kahalawai ("West Maui mountains"); the Pohakea parcel contains the traditional Moku boundary line between Lahaina and Wailuku Moku, as well as providing trail head access to the state's popular Lahaina Pali Trail which was the traditional route connecting Maui Komohana (west Maui) with Na Wai Eha (Wailuku and central Maui) and South Maui.

Sierra Club volunteers were among the many who devoted hours to the 1993-94 restoration of this legendary trail and the purchase of this parcel would allow the trail area to support additional cultural education opportunities, as well as recreational opportunities.

The Pohakea lands also provide past and potential habitat for important native species like Blackburn Sphinx moths, and we understand that the agreement includes three brackish wells and a storage tank that will be useful for future irrigation of fire fuel breaks, and any future native plant restoration.

Mahalo for your support of this important state acquisition

Lucienne de Naie  
Chairperson, Sierra Club Maui  
PO Box 791180, Paia, HI