

**From:** [Carlos Lamas](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of the Proposed Purchase of 257 Acres at Ma‘alaea Mauka  
**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2024 8:10:28 PM

---

Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Carlos Lamas, a West Maui resident, I am in strong support of the proposed purchase of 257 acres at Ma‘alaea Mauka.

This acquisition is crucial for several reasons. First and foremost, it will contribute to fire mitigation and prevent the only access route for first responders from being blocked due to improper land management. The strategic location of this property means that safeguarding it will help ensure emergency services can respond quickly and effectively in times of crisis.

Moreover, the area has significant environmental value. This purchase will help address pressing issues such as erosion and sediment runoff that threaten the health of the Ma‘alaea Reef and surrounding marine ecosystems. By securing this land, the state can implement crucial conservation practices to prevent further degradation of these vital marine resources.

The preservation of this property is also vital for reducing fire risks in the area. With dry, grassy landscapes dominating much of Ma‘alaea Mauka, it is critical to manage vegetation and restore native species that can reduce fuel loads and help prevent devastating wildfires. The acquisition of these 257 acres will allow for better land management practices and contribute to the state's broader efforts in wildfire mitigation.

In addition to environmental concerns, the proposed purchase will contribute to the local community's quality of life. The preservation of open space at Ma‘alaea Mauka aligns with Hawai‘i’s broader commitment to sustainable land management and environmental stewardship. It will provide opportunities for community members and visitors to engage with nature, fostering a deeper appreciation for Hawai‘i’s unique natural heritage.

Furthermore, the property is directly adjacent to the Maui Ocean Center and the Mā‘alaea Small Boat Harbor. By securing this land, the state will also create opportunities for outdoor recreation, scientific research, and environmental education.

This acquisition aligns perfectly with Hawai‘i’s 30x30 Marine Initiative, which aims to effectively manage at least 30% of the state’s nearshore waters by 2030. Protecting this property will reduce sediment runoff and improve nearshore water quality, ultimately supporting healthier marine ecosystems.

I urge the Board to approve the purchase of the Ma‘alaea Mauka property and preserve this invaluable land for generations to come. Mahalo for your time and consideration reading my testimony.