

**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*



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII  
MAUI GROUP

To: BLNR Members and staff

May 8, 2024

From: Sierra Club Maui Group

Re: item C.3 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 Hamakualoa land parcels (TMK ((2) 2-9-011:012 AND (2) 2-9-013:009 as part of the East Maui Rainforest Project which connects important coastal forestry parcels in East Maui to the Forest Reserve lands the state already owns. We also support the issuance of the Management Right of Entry to State Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) and delegation to the DOFAW branch manager to issue permits. We appreciate the public meeting on Maui being held.

Sierra Club hike leaders are familiar with the great conservation potential of these parcels and their importance in overall management efforts to stem the loss of forest and coastal habitat. The West Hanawana parcel (2) 2-9-011:012 includes Hoalua Stream and coastal areas (Hoalua Bay, Hanawana Bay, and Puu Ka Ae) with high-quality native coastal habitat. Our Sierra Club Maui outings program has led guided educational hikes to Hoalua Bay and Pu'u Ka 'Ae sea stack a number of times in the past by securing permits from East Maui Irrigation. The area is very scenic and still contains extensive pandanus groves ("hala") as well as other native plants, and native seabirds utilize the Pu'u. This is also the location associated with Maui defenders turning away the war canoe fleet of Kamehameha I in the 1790's as his canoes attempted to pull into the shelter of Hoalua Bay.

The West Makaiwa parcel (2) 2-9-013:009 has a portion of the traditional fishing trail leading from Hana Hwy to the sea. This trail primarily travels through state land and securing the adjoining West Makaiwa parcel will bring the trail, used by local fishers and gatherers, into public ownership and management. The land also includes a part of 'O'opuola Stream. Sierra Club filed a petition in 2021 with CWRM asking that instream flow standards be set for 12 Huelo area streams and their tributaries. 'O'opuola stream was one of those and DAR studies concurred that the restoration potential for 'O'opuola Stream is high as it flows directly into the sea and provides a protected estuary area for native stream species. The Commission ("CWRM") approved partial restoration of flows in 'O'opuola Stream and its tributary Makanali stream in 2022 and those restorations are in the process of being implemented.

We support the vision of DOFAW staff in working to return our vitally important East Maui watershed lands to public ownership and management. Mahalo for your support of these two important state land acquisitions

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

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May 3, 2024

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Re: May 10, 2025 Meeting Agenda item C - 3

Aloha Chair Chang, and Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. I am writing in support of the East Maui Coastal Rainforest Project and the acquisition of the two parcels listed on the agenda ((2) 2-9-011:012 & (2) 2-9-013:009). As the Maui County Councilmember representing East Maui, I support the ongoing efforts of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to acquire these lands for protection and to increase mauka to makai connectivity.

This specific project area contains high quality coastal habitat for native species, as well as habitat for the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*) and seabirds. The project also includes perennial streams that provide riparian habitat for native stream fauna including the Hawaiian freshwater goby and the Hawaiian stream shrimp. The coastal waters offshore are designated critical habitat for the endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*). The project area is highly strategic, as parcels acquired will be added to the state managed Koolau Forest Reserve, which is part of a contiguous network of 108,000 acres of protected lands.

This purchase is also part of a larger effort to provide mauka to makai and lateral connectivity which assists with land management and public access. The environmental effects of mauka to makai ahupua'a land management are extremely beneficial, including erosion and sediment control, providing habitat protections, and helps to strengthen our entire eco system and helping with stream connectivity. Creating lateral access by tying conservation lands together

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helps create legacy impacts, habitat preservation and provides land conservation opportunities. It also provides easier access to local hunters and to areas used by cultural practitioners when practicing traditional and customary rights. Having these lands in the state forest reserve can help increase overall ecosystem health by providing more access to invasive species control, allows for reforestation and erosion mitigation which prevents sediment from entering the ocean and harming our coral reefs. Maintaining ecological balance is critical to the quality of life for local residents.

To close, this action is inline with the public trust doctrine provided in our state constitution. Article XI (11) Section 1 specifically states that:

“For the benefit of present and future generations, the State shall conserve and protect Hawaii’s natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State. All public natural resources are held in trust by the state for the benefit of the people.”

The proposed acquisition of these parcels helps to fulfil our obligation to uphold the public trust doctrine. I support DoFAW’s request and ask that you support it as well.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane M. Sinenci". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

SHANE M. SINENCI  
Councilmember  
East Maui District