

From: [Candace Fujikane](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Candace Fujikane](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of Agenda Item D.4. regarding the After-the-Fact issuance of Revocable Permit to Nā 'Aikāne o Maui, Inc (NAOMI) for Community Resource Center Purposes
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024 4:03:18 PM

Please accept my testimony in support of Agenda Item D.4. regarding the After-the-Fact issuance of Revocable Permit to Nā 'Aikāne o Maui, Inc (NAOMI) for Community Resource Center Purposes.

I would also like to testify in person.

To: Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

From: Candace Fujikane

RE: Testimony in support of Agenda Item D.4. regarding the After-the-Fact issuance of Revocable Permit to Nā 'Aikāne o Maui, Inc (NAOMI) for Community Resource Center Purposes

Date: June 27, 2024

Aloha mai e Chair Chang and Board Members,

My name is Candace Fujikane, and I live in Kāne'ōhe. I am testifying in strong support of Agenda Item D.4. regarding the "After-the-Fact issuance of Revocable Permit to Nā 'Aikāne o Maui, Inc (NAOMI) for Community Resource Center Purposes." The Nā 'Aikāne o Maui Cultural and Research Center has provided a strong cultural foundation and support for Lahaina families and communities, as well as educational resources for all of Hawai'i, and they must be allowed to steward that land as the work of rebuilding Lahaina continues. Even though the physical structure of the Center was lost in the fire, the physical and spiritual energy that thousands and thousands of people who have given their aloha to that place continues to be a wellspring guiding us into the restoration of Lahaina and the future of Lahaina communities.

In times of community need, the Nā 'Aikāne o Maui Cultural and Research Center has been there for Lahaina families, providing a space for conversations about issues that are vital to preserving and perpetuating Hawaiian culture and lifeways. I first started attending events at the Nā 'Aikāne o Maui Cultural and Research Center in November 20, 2015, when the Center hosted the "West Maui

Hawaiian-Environmental Rights Workshop.” I listened to organizers from across Hawai‘i talk about the work that they do to protect lands and waters in Hawai‘i in ways that are grounded in Hawaiian practices and culture while also educating community members about environmental laws and how they could contribute to and participate in legal decisions being made about their communities. The Center was an important place for people to come together and have these conversations that would help them to be better informed about their rights as well as the volunteer work that they could engage in at various restoration projects. Since then, the HK West Maui Community Fund group has organized lectures hosted by the Cultural Center where cultural practitioners, community leaders, state agency administrators, University of Hawai‘i professors, and others from a wide range of areas of expertise share their knowledge with community members.

More recently, a month before the Lahaina fire, I visited the Cultural Center as a learner in the land stewardship cohort Hālau ‘Ōhi‘a, under the direction of Kekuhi Kealiikanakaoleohaililani. We spent two days at the Nā ‘Aikāne o Maui Cultural and Research Center. First, we spent time in the Cultural Center, learning from Ke‘eaumoku and U‘ilani Kapu about the history of Moku‘ula and its cultural significance to the health of Lahaina. We then gave our aloha to this place we had become familiar with, working in the blazing Lahaina sun on the summer solstice, Ke Ala Polohiwa a Kāne, the longest day of the year. My teacher Kekuhi tells us that although we always try to avoid going out during the hottest time of the day, how are we to grow a relationship with the elemental form of the sun, Kānehoalani, if we do not know him in all of his forms and energies? To fully experience Kānehoalani, we have to lean into the struggle, lean into the heat that nurtures growth. That day, we honored Kānehoalani, the akua who is the sun. We worked to clear the land of invasive haole koa saplings on the land that was once the great body of water known as Moku‘ula. By spending that day working to clear invasive trees, passing them from hand to hand into a dumpster, we looked through a small window into the lives of the kupa‘āina, the people who sprout from the land of Lahaina, and the Kapu family’s twenty years’ work to honor that land. We held an ‘aha to honor the summer solstice, offering our voices raised in chant to honor the sun and the generative work of the Kapu family at the Cultural and Research Center. Like so many people before us, our sweat became a part of that place, our voices became a part of that place, and we each made an offering of our own physical and spiritual energy to that place. That land, the home of the great mo‘o reptilian water deity Kīhāwahine, is a special wahi pana and it must continue under the stewardship of Nā ‘Aikāne o Maui Cultural and Research Center.

I urge you to renew the After-the-Fact issuance of Revocable Permit to Nā ‘Aikāne o Maui, Inc (NAOMI) for Community Resource Center purposes.

Sincerely,

Candace Fujikane

Professor of English

University of Hawai'i

From: [Keala Fung](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6/28/24 Maui: lease renewal for Na Aikane o Maui (Lahaina)
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024 8:45:10 AM

Aloha,

My name is Keala Fung and I am writing in full support of the lease renewal for Na Aikane o Maui's space on 562-A Front St Lahaina.

Keala Fung

From: [r.v](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for the renewal of Na Aikane O Maui's Permit
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024 11:52:24 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like the Board to please renew the permit for Na Aikane O Maui.

Mahalo,
Rhonda Vincent

Sent from my iPhone