

This is a written testimony to show full support towards Phase II of expansion of the Kealahou Supportive Housing Project for Homeless Families. As a director working at service for the homeless community, it becomes apparent that a common problem among all clients is lack of housing as a necessity resource in our community. Our shelter see's many houseless individuals coming in to seek refuge, which is supposed to be a temporary shelter. We provide them with case work, creating a housing plan, helping them fill out applications, and give guidance towards permanent residence. Unfortunately, the progress is bottlenecked when the resources are short, and there is many vying for the same properties.

Subsequently phase I of Kealahou Supportive Housing Project, has seen many people in need able to apply and move into Pua Loke. 28 – unit project allowing for an average of 70 previously homeless individuals to have housing, is a good thing. Allowing for residents of Kauai to create the foundation of much needed support and stability that is a necessity to improve their own living conditions.

As for the plan to move into phase II of development which will have the capacity to almost double the number of homeless individuals served in their program to have access to housing, I state strongly 'YES'. This is the right direction and I give my full support towards its development. Expanding on an already successful project by utilizing an additional 1 acre of vacant unused state land is a step towards a better tomorrow. To meet the needs for housing of our community, to truly live with 'aloha'.

**Martin Antonio**

Kauai Economic Opportunity, Incorporated  
Homeless and Housing Director  
2804 Wehe Road  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766



July 22, 2024

Email: [blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov](mailto:blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov)

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
PO Box 621  
Honolulu, HI 96809

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: July 26, 2024, Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) Meeting  
Agenda Item C-1: "Re-set Aside to the County of Kaua'i for Housing Purposes"

I am writing in support of the County of Kauai's request to provide an immediate Right-of Entry- and subsequent transfer of approximately one-acre of DOFAW's Lihue property known as the Pua Loke Nursery and Arboretum. This transfer will facilitate the expansion of the County's neighboring Kealaula Supportive Housing Project for Homeless Families. In exchange the County will fund and install sewer infrastructure to DOFAW's neighboring base yard and implement the decommissioning of the existing cesspool serving DOFAW's facilities. The Land Division estimates this sewer project will require \$.5 million expenditure.

The County's Kealaula Supportive Housing Project for Homeless Families opened to its first tenants in November of 2020. This cooperative state/county project was developed on approximately 1.5 acres of then unused state land with shared State and County funding. Kealaula's location in the heart of Lihue close to both state and county social services, government offices, medical and mental health services, numerous schools, public transportation, and plentiful employment opportunities provides all the resources recently homeless tenants need to thrive and rebuild their lives.

The 28-unit project consists of both one bedroom and studio units, each with their own kitchen and full bath. This is sufficient to house an average of 70 previously homeless individuals at any given time. In addition to providing a safe and comfortable living environment for homeless families, all tenants receive wrap around social services customized to their individual needs to assist them in getting back on their feet.

Since opening Kealaula has housed 71 homeless families including 96 children who would otherwise have been living on the street. Of these families served 43 have been empowered to move from Kealaula to permanently stable housing. Only three households have exited Kealaula back to homelessness.

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July 22, 2024  
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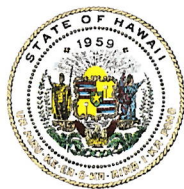
The planned Phase II expansion of Kealaula onto approximately 1 acre of currently vacant state land immediately next door to Phase I will enable the construction of an additional 24-units, almost doubling the capacity of project to serve and estimated 120 homeless individuals at a time.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our comments regarding this agenda item. Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to reach out to me at 808.855.5360 or I may be reached via email at [sharon.winkauai@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.winkauai@gmail.com).

Sincerely,



Sharon Graham  
Housing Director, Kealaula on Pua Loke



The Senate  
Office of the President

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

July 22, 2024

Via Electronic Transmission: [blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov](mailto:blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov)

Dawn Chang  
Chairperson  
Board of Land & Natural Resources  
Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: 9:00 a.m. July 26, 2024 Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) Meeting  
Agenda Item – C1: Reconsideration of Conditions Imposed for the Partial Withdrawal  
from Governor's Executive Order No. 4663 (EO 4663) and Re-set Aside to the  
County of Kauai (COK) for Housing Purposes; and Issuance of Immediate Construction  
Right-of-Entry to the COK and Authorize Acceptance of a Bill of Sale from  
the COK to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry  
and Wildlife (DOFAW), Covering Infrastructure Improvements the COK to the DLNR  
DOFAW, Covering Infrastructure Improvements the COK Constructs on  
Land Set Aside to DOFAW under EO 4663, Nawiliwili, Lihue, Kauai, Tax Map Key:  
(4) 3-8-005: portions of 002 (known as the Pua Loke Nursery and Arboretum)

Please accept this testimony in strong support of the above-referenced agenda item.

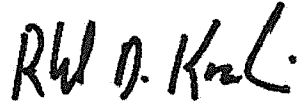
I am informed that the COK seeks to use currently vacant DLNR land immediately adjoining its current Kealaula housing facility to construct an additional 24 units for homeless families in the heart of Lihue, with appropriate social services, that will nearly double its transitional housing program to take families off the streets with the goal of moving these families into permanent housing. I am further informed that to date, the program has been very successful and additional housing units will result in addressing the housing needs of Kauai's most vulnerable families.

To realize its expansion of Kealaula Phase II, the COK will fund and install sewer infrastructure to DOFAW's base yard and decommission DOFAW's existing cesspool. This sewer conversion and cesspool decommission will allow DOFAW to fully realize its base yard potential and prevent aquifer and run-off contamination from the existing cesspool.

Dawn Chang  
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Thank you for your time and anticipated favorable consideration and if there are any questions with regard to the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.D. Kouchi". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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RONALD D. KOUCHI  
Senate President

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair  
Addison Bulosan  
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
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**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

July 22, 2024

Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson  
and Members of the Board  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809  
(Via Email Only: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov)

*Aloha* Chairperson Chang and Members of the Board:

**RE: ITEM C-1, RECONSIDERATION OF CONDITIONS IMPOSED FOR THE PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL FROM GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 4663 (EO 4663) AND RE-SET ASIDE TO THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I FOR HOUSING PURPOSES; AND ISSUANCE OF IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTION RIGHT-OF-ENTRY TO THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I; AND AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF A BILL OF SALE FROM THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE (DOFAW), COVERING INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS THE COUNTY CONSTRUCTS ON LAND SET ASIDE TO DOFAW UNDER EO 4663, NAWILIWILI, LIHU'E, KAUA'I, TAX MAP KEY: (4) 3-8-005:PORTIONS OF 002 (KNOWN AS THE PUA LOKE NURSERY AND ARBORETUM)**

I am writing in my capacity as an individual member of the Kaua'i County Council to support the County of Kaua'i's request to provide an immediate right-of-entry and subsequent transfer of approximately one-acre of the DOFAW's Lihu'e property known as the Pua Loke Nursery and Arboretum. This transfer will facilitate a significant expansion of the County's neighboring Kealaula Supportive Housing Project for homeless families. To complement this exchange, the County will fund and install sewer infrastructure to DOFAW's neighboring base yard and implement the decommissioning of the existing cesspool serving DOFAW's facilities. The Land Division estimates this sewer project will require a five-hundred-thousand-dollar expenditure.

The County's Kealaula Supportive Housing Project for homeless families—a cooperative State and County project with shared funding—opened to its first tenants in November of 2020 and was developed on approximately one and a half (1.5) acres of then-unused State land. Kealaula is well situated in the heart of Lihu'e and in close proximity to both State and County social services, government offices, medical

Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson  
and Members of the Board

Re: Item C-1, Reconsideration Of Conditions Imposed For The Partial Withdrawal From Governor's Executive Order No. 4663 (EO 4663) And Re-Set Aside To The County Of Kaua'i For Housing Purposes; And Issuance Of Immediate Construction Right-Of-Entry To The County Of Kaua'i; And Authorize Acceptance Of A Bill Of Sale From The County Of Kaua'i To The Department Of Land And Natural Resources, Division Of Forestry And Wildlife (DOFAW), Covering Infrastructure Improvements The County Constructs On Land Set Aside To DOFAW Under EO 4663, Nāwiliwili, Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Tax Map Key: (4) 3-8-005:Portions Of 002 (Known As The Pua Loke Nursery And Arboretum)

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and mental health services, numerous schools, public transportation, and abundant employment opportunities. Additionally, Kealaula provides all the resources that recently homeless tenants need to thrive and rebuild their lives.

The project currently consists of twenty-eight (28) units spread across both one-bedroom and studio floorplans, each with its own kitchen and full bath. This arrangement is sufficient to house an average of seventy (70) previously homeless individuals at any given time. In addition to providing a safe and comfortable living environment for homeless families, all tenants receive wraparound social services which are customized to their individual needs, thereby assisting them in getting back on their feet.

Since opening in 2020, Kealaula has housed seventy-one (71) homeless families including ninety-six (96) children who would otherwise have been living on the street. Of these families served, a total of forty-three (43) of them have been empowered to move from Kealaula to permanently stable housing. Only three (3) households have exited Kealaula back to homelessness, which represents a great overall success.

The planned Phase II expansion of Kealaula onto approximately one-acre of currently vacant State land immediately adjacent to Phase I will enable the construction of an additional twenty-four (24) units, nearly doubling the capacity of the project to serve an estimated one hundred twenty (120) homeless individuals at a time. This crucial collaboration will result in much-needed additional housing as we work to support our most vulnerable residents. Therefore, I humbly ask for your favorable consideration of this right-of-entry and land transfer request.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,



MEL RAPOZO  
Council Chair, Kaua'i County Council

RM:ss