

From: [Elke AhLeong](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Honolulu Pearl Canoe Club - Support for Permitting Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 5:22:32 PM

Talofa Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As vast reaching paddling Ohana who has participated in the Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races, we strongly support the issuance of right of entry permits for these important events.

Canoe racing is our state sport and a source of immense pride for our communities and kanaka. These races celebrate our heritage and connect paddlers from around the world, reinforcing our cultural traditions and local economy.

With the recent hiatus due to COVID-19 and the Lahaina Fires, resuming these races is vital for rekindling the enthusiasm and cultural spirit that define them. Our clubs and crews have been practicing and preparing for the channel and 'ohana wa'a is eager to return to this beloved cultural event - the apex of our sport!

We urge the Board to support the return of these races, which are essential to our community and cultural legacy.

Mahalo for your support!

Sincerely,
Elke Ahleong
HPCC Assistant Coach & Avid Paddler



Board of Directors

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2nd Vice President

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Hawaiian Kanaktion
Healani
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Hui Nalu
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Kai Oni
Kailua
Keahiakahoe
Keala
Keola O Ke Kai
Koa Kai
Lanikai
Leeward Kai
Makaha
Nahoapili O Ke Kai
New Hope
Outrigger
Waikiki Surf
Waimānalo

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Dear Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As a Board member of the O‘ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (OH CRA), I strongly support our request for a Right of Entry Permit to Hale ‘O Lono.

This permit is essential for the successful execution of the Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe canoe races which are deeply significant to our state, community and culture.

OH CRA is dedicated to ensuring that all participants and guests engage respectfully with our host community, addressing and honoring community concerns with the utmost diligence and respect.

Mahalo Nui,

Rhonda Burk

Advocacy Committee Chairperson
O‘ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (OH CRA)
Advocacy@ohcra.com

From: [Sara Cashin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Permitting Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 4:20:03 PM

Dear Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to you in support of resuming the Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Ho'e Canoe Races. Canoe racing is not only a sport, but a heritage-centered lifestyle that is hugely significant to the peoples of Hawaii. These two races signify a right of passage for men and women of all ages who have practiced diligently and with fever to put their spirits, bodies, and knowledge to the test. It is in these big trials we become who Ke Akua has called us to be. It is in these challenges that we find strength and wisdom and bring them back to land and into our communities.

Please grant Right of Entry Permits to OHCRA for Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Ho'e not only to support the male and female paddlers of 2024, but also to honor those who have gone before and paved the way.

Mahalo,
Sara Cashin
393 E Hind Dr.
Honolulu HI 96821
sara.cashin@rocketmail.com
808-900-1265

From: [Joshua DeMello](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Permitting Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 5:09:12 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and the members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My 'Ohana have participated in the Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races as paddlers, escort boat drivers, officials, and organizers since its inception. Three generations of my family that we hope will include a fourth this year. I strongly support the issuance of right of entry permits for these important events and ask you, members of the BLNR to also support the permits.

Canoe racing is our state sport participated in by thousands of residents from 8 years old to over 70. While it is a Hawaiian sport, it crosses all ethnicities, religions, genders, etc. It is a sport that everyone can participate on every island. The Molokai Hoe and Na Wahine o Ke Kai are the opportunity for Hawaii citizens to participate in a world class race against people from all over the world. It is the premier event for canoe paddling much like the Pipe Masters is for surfing and should be promoted in the same fashion.

COVID and the Lahaina fires took a toll on the paddling community across the state. As regatta season started back up and then long distance season, the Molokai races are the next step to resuming normalcy in Hawaii.

I would like to request the members of the Board to support this return to normalcy for thousands of 'Ohana like mine that love paddling and want to continue the traditions and cultural legacy of the indigenous people of our islands. Preserving our ability to continue these races perpetuates our culture, promotes our islands, and provides opportunities to all of Hawaii's people. And with that, maybe a 4th generation will be able to cross the channel this year paving a way for the fifth and so on.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Aloha and Mahalo,
Joshua K. DeMello

From: [Marcus Edayan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony- PSF 24 MD- 081
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 8:38:44 PM

Board of Natural Resources,

As a member of the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (OHCRA), I strongly support our request for a right of entry permit to Hale O Lono. This permit is essential for the successful execution of the Na Wahine o Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe canoe races, which are deeply significant to our state, community, and culture. OHCRA is dedicated to ensuring that all participants and guests engage respectfully with our host community, addressing and honoring community concerns with the utmost diligence.

Sincerely,
Marcus Edayan
Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (OHCRA)
Sent from my iPhone

From: [KUI HENDERSON](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Permitting Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:46:45 AM

Dear Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As paddlers who have participated in the Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races, we strongly support the issuance of right of entry permits for these important events.

Canoe racing is our state sport and a source of immense pride for our communities and kanaka. These races celebrate our heritage and connect paddlers from around the world, reinforcing our cultural traditions and local economy.

With the recent hiatus due to COVID-19 and the Lahaina Fires, resuming these races is vital for rekindling the enthusiasm and cultural spirit that define them. Our clubs and crews have been practicing and preparing for the channel and 'ohana wa'a is eager to return to this beloved cultural event - the apex of our sport!

We urge the Board to support the return of these races, which are essential to our community and cultural legacy.

Mahalo for your support!

Sincerely,

Kui Meyer

808-723-4430

From: [Denise Kealoha](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Permitting Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:19:52 AM

Support for Permitting Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races

Dear Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As paddlers who have participated in the Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races, we strongly support the issuance of right of entry permits for these important events.

Canoe racing is our state sport and a source of immense pride for our communities and kanaka. These races celebrate our heritage and connect paddlers from around the world, reinforcing our cultural traditions and local economy.

With the recent hiatus due to COVID-19 and the Lahaina Fires, resuming these races is vital for rekindling the enthusiasm and cultural spirit that define them. Our clubs and crews have been practicing and preparing for the channel and 'ohana wa'a is eager to return to this beloved cultural event - the apex of our sport!

We urge the Board to support the return of these races, which are essential to our community and cultural legacy.

Mahalo for your support!

Sincerely, Anuhea Kealoha

From: DLOPIANO@hawaii.rr.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony - PSF 24MD -
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:35:53 AM

Board of Natural Resources,

As a member of the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (OHCRA), I strongly support our request for a right of entry permit to Hale O Lono. This permit is essential for the successful execution of the Na Wahine o Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe canoe races, which are deeply significant to our state, community, and culture. OHCRA is dedicated to ensuring that all participants and guests engage respectfully with our host community, addressing and community concerns with the utmost diligence.

Sincerely,
Joseph LoPiano
Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (OHCRA)

From: [Lida Morgado](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [Lida Morgado](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Permitting Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 9:10:34 PM

Dear Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As paddlers who have participated in the Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races, we strongly support the issuance of right of entry permits for these important events.

Canoe racing is our state sport and a source of immense pride for our communities and kanaka. These races celebrate our heritage and connect paddlers from around the world, reinforcing our cultural traditions and local economy.

With the recent hiatus due to COVID-19 and the Lahaina Fires, resuming these races is vital for rekindling the enthusiasm and cultural spirit that define them. Our clubs and crews have been practicing and preparing for the channel and 'ohana wa'a is eager to return to this beloved cultural event - the apex of our sport!

We urge the Board to support the return of these races, which are essential to our community and cultural legacy.

Mahalo for your support!

Aloha,
Lida Morgado

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Live Simply, Love Generously, Care Deeply, Speak Kindly, Leave the rest to God....

Lida EK Morgado

Cell: 808.368.3643
Efax: 866.854.3912

Statement of
HEATHER N. MURAKAMI
Individual
Before the

BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Friday, July 26, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
DLNR Boardroom, Kalanimoku Bldg., 1151 Punchbowl St. 1st Floor, Room 132

In consideration of
Agenda Item D.2

Rescind Prior Board Action of August 11, 2023, Under Agenda Item D-2, Approving Right-of-Entry Permit to Na Wahine O Ke Kai, for Annual Canoe Race Start Events, Hale O Lono, Kaluakoi, Molokai, Tax Map Key (2) 5-1-002: 012 por. The reason for the rescission is that Na Wahine O Ke Kai no longer exists as an entity, having filed Articles of Dissolution with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs on May 1, 2024. Additionally, the September 24, 2023 race event approved by the Board in its prior action was canceled on August 15, 2023 after the wildfire disaster in Maui. Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permits to O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association Hawaii for Annual Canoe Race Start Events from 2024 to 2028 to be held each Year in the Months of September and October at Hale O Lono, Kaluakoi, Molokai, Tax Map Key (2) 5-1-002: 012 por.

Chair Chang and members of the Board:

I **support** the issuance of right-of-entry permits to the O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association for annual canoe race start events from 2024 to 2028 to be held each year in the months of September and October at Hale O Lono, Kaluakoi, Molokai. As a paddler who has participated in the Na Wahine O Ke Kai Canoe Race and been a boat official for the Molokai Hoe Canoe Race, I support the issuance of right of entry permits for these important events.

I testify before you today as an individual but note that I am the current Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (HCRA) Secretary and past officer, committee chair, race official, and volunteer of HCRA and Na Ohana O Na Hui Waa (HRS §200-20), an Oahu canoe racing association.

Outrigger canoe racing is our state's official team sport (HRS §5-14) and a source of pride for our communities. These races celebrate our heritage, connect paddlers from around the world, reinforce our cultural traditions, and stimulate the local economy.

With the recent hiatus from racing because of COVID-19 and the Lahaina wildfire, resuming these races is vital for rekindling the interest and cultural spirit that define them. Our clubs and crews have been practicing and preparing with enthusiasm to cross the channel.

I urge the Board to grant the right-of-entry permits and support the return of these races.

Mahalo for your support!

From: [pualani Paiaina](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Permitting Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 8:57:38 PM

Dear Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As paddlers who have participated in the Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races, we strongly support the issuance of right of entry permits for these important events.

Canoe racing is our state sport and a source of immense pride for our communities and kanaka. These races celebrate our heritage and connect paddlers worldwide, reinforcing our cultural traditions and local economy.

With the recent hiatus due to COVID-19 and the Lahaina Fires, resuming these races is vital for rekindling the enthusiasm and cultural spirit that define them. Our clubs and crews have been practicing and preparing for the channel and 'ohana wa'a is eager to return to this beloved cultural event - the apex of our sport!

We urge the Board to support the return of these races, which are essential to our community and cultural legacy.

Mahalo for your support!
Sincerely,

--

Pualani P. Paiaina
Vice President
Healani Canoe Club



Board of Directors

Lāpule Schultz
President

Siana Hunt
1st Vice President

Kawika Ho
2nd Vice President

Ikaika Rogerson
Treasurer

Jennifer Romano
Recording Secretary

Kaui Serrao
Corresponding Secretary

Luana Froiseth
Race Director

Member Clubs:

‘Anuenue
‘Ewa Pu‘uloa Outrigger
Hawaiian Kanaktion
Healani
Honolulu Pearl
Hui Nalu
Hui Lanakila
‘Imiola
Kai Oni
Kailua
Keahiakahoe
Keala
Keola O Ke Kai
Koa Kai
Lanikai
Leeward Kai
Makaha
Nahoapili O Ke Kai
New Hope
Outrigger
Waikiki Surf
Waimānalo

Board of Land and Natural Resources

Public Testimony

Subject: Support for the Issuance of Permitting for Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races

Dear Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong support for the issuance of permitting for the Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races. As the Treasurer of OHCR, I understand the vital role these races play in our cultural heritage and community connection.

The Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races are more than just sporting events; they are a celebration of Hawaii’s state sport and a symbol of our cultural resilience. After a four-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the return of these races is of utmost importance to our paddling community both here in Hawaii and around the world. The opportunity to race the channel again provides a crucial avenue for athletes to connect with our traditions and continue the legacy of canoe racing.

Over the past three years, I have dedicated myself to engaging with the Molokai community to ensure that the races return with strong respect and consideration for local concerns. We have hosted nine community meetings and talk story events on Molokai to address any issues and to collaborate closely with community members. This commitment underscores our dedication to not only reviving these races but also to doing so in a manner that honors the values and traditions of the Molokai community.

Today, OHCR boasts over 70 years of experience in producing these races and continues to collaborate with our host community of Molokai and numerous partners to advance the World Championship of Canoe Racing. Your support in permitting these races is crucial for continuing this proud tradition.

Ke aloha NUI,

Ikaika Rogerson
Treasurer
Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association

From: [Kau'i Serrao](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Permitting Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Races
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024 12:33:52 PM

Dear Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As an official who has participated in the Na Wahine O Ke Kai and Molokai Hoe Canoe Race registration team, I strongly support the issuance of right of entry permits for these important events.

Canoe racing is our state sport and a source of immense pride for our communities and kanaka. These races celebrate our heritage and connect paddlers from around the world, reinforcing our cultural traditions and local economy.

With the recent hiatus due to COVID-19 and the Lahaina Fires, resuming these races is vital for rekindling the enthusiasm and cultural spirit that define them. Our clubs and crews have been practicing and preparing for the channel and 'ohana wa'a is eager to return to this beloved cultural event - the apex of our sport!

We urge the Board to support the return of these races, which are essential to our community and cultural legacy. As we personally perpetuate our legacy of our Kupuna who have set the foundation for our generations to carry on.

Mahalo for your support!

Sincerely,

Marleen Kau'ionalani Serrao

Co-Founder / Director, 'Ewa Pu'uloa Outrigger Canoe Club
Corresponding Secretary, Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association

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Marleen Kau'ionalani Serrao

Ewa Pu'uloa Outrigger Canoe Club: Co-founder - Director
Ewa Pu'uloa Hawaiian Civic Club: President
Hoa'kalei Cultural Foundation: Vice President
Na Malama Polynesian Dance Studio: Kumu Hula

From: [zoran Cullinan](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Moloka'i Hoe Permit
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:59:44 AM

Aloha,

I am emailing today to urge that permits for the Moloka'i Hoe, and Na Wahine O Ke Kai, be issued for this years upcoming races. For me it is an important part of my culture and I have done the Moloka'i Hoe 3 times. I hope to continue to do it every year I am able. It is the Super Bowl of races for us in the paddling community. Without it a lot of people I know don't even want to paddle during the summer. It is a race that keeps this sport alive. A sport that has very large significance to not only Hawaiian culture but to many people that have grown up in Hawaii. It is important to anyone that loves the ocean and wishes to continue to perpetuate a sport that gets people out there.

Mahalo,

Zoran

Sent from my iPhone