

From: [Uilani Naipo](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: [U'ilani Naipo](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F-1 Support Approval to Hold Public Hearings for Maunalua Bay FMA
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 8:55:13 PM

Aloha Board,

Please approve the request for DAR to hold public hearings for the proposed Maunalua Bay FMA. This is especially exciting to hear O'ahu is receiving protective and resource management attention to its nearshore area and marine resources.

Mahalo,

U'ilani Naipo
Miloli'i CBSFA Administrator

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
In Support of Agenda Item F-1, “Request for Approval to Hold
Public Hearings to Adopt a New Chapter as HAR, Title 13, Chp. 48.5,
“Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area, O‘ahu” (Maunalua Bay FMA)”**

**Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources
July 11, 2024, 9:00 AM
Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl St., Room 132**

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members:

The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra (TNC) strongly supports approval of Agenda Item F-1 to hold public hearings to adopt new rules regarding the Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area (FMA).

Guided by science and our mission to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends, TNC works with government and academic partners and more than 30 communities across the state to restore and protect the coastal habitats that support Hawaii's culture, fisheries, economy, and way of life. Our past efforts to support the conservation of Maunalua Bay include leading the successful federally-funded, multi-year Great Huki to remove alien algae from reef flats, working with community organization Mālama Maunalua to develop their first conservation action plan, and conducting annual coral reef and fish surveys from 2009–2012.

Those surveys concluded that the “Maunalua Bay reef assemblage is in poor condition and is among the most adversely impacted in the entire state”. Maunalua Bay and the adjacent Kuapā Fishpond have been severely affected by land conversion and development as well as additional stressors including the overfishing and illegal fishing that this proposal aims to address. The community-based efforts in Maunalua Bay, including those of Mālama Maunalua, fishers, community and conservation organizations, and others seek to promote sustainable fisheries management, undertake restoration and stewardship efforts, mitigate negative impacts of land-based sources of pollution, and support functioning ahupua'a systems.

The proposed FMA is an example and embodiment of those efforts. We support the purpose of this proposed FMA to create long-term sustainable fishing within Maunalua Bay, develop and implement meaningful community-engaged monitoring, and advance an adaptive decision-making process for the management of the FMA.

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The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra

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We ask that the Board support and approve the request to hold public hearings for the Maunalua Bay FMA to increase the health and resilience of its reefs and communities. Mahalo for your support and stewardship of Hawai'i's ocean resources.

Sincerely,

'Alohi Nakachi

O'ahu Marine Program Manager

The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra

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