



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāinana

STATE OF HAWAII'
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII' 96813

Chair Dawn Chang
Board of Land and Natural Resources
October 11, 2024
9am, DLNR Boardroom

Aloha e Chair Chang and members of the Board,

I am writing in the strongest support of Agenda item D 6. "Set Aside to the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions of Kauhale Housing Project Purposes; Issuance of Immediate Management Right-of-Entry Permit: Waimānalo, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu; Tax Map Key: (1) 4-4-008:008.

Hui Mahi'ai 'Āina started to provide shelter to homeless residents on the property as an emergency measure during COVID. It is a remarkably successful place of residence, community and healing for our homeless population that are able to follow community rules. At the time Hui Mahi'ai 'Āina moved in, the land was fallow and not maintained. Portions of the property have also been converted to productive agricultural use. It is the intention of the proposed lessees to construct a kauhale community to code in a section of the property that is not in the flood zone, as well as to expand the agricultural uses of the property.

This is a win-win for both social services and for land management. Fire risk will be reduced, food for local consumption will be produced, and a place will be made available for homeless residents on the windward side, who generally would rather live on the street than leave. I appreciate the patience of the Department of Land and Natural Resources as plans and funding were sorted out. This project is a promising collaboration between State, City, private philanthropy and community members.

Mahalo for your continued support of this initiative.

Representative Lisa Marten, District 51
Chair, Committee on Human Services