



KAUAI VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
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HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
**KAUAI REGION**

*E Pono Mau Loa ~ Always Excellent*

SAMUEL MAHELONA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
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## **Board of Land and Natural Resources**

P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809

Dear Chairperson Dawn Chang and Honorable Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Kauai Region (HHCKR), thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Item D.3 on the Board's December 13, 2024 Agenda:

***Cancellation of Governor's Executive Order No. 4623 to the Department of Health for Health-Related Services and Conveyance by Land Patent Grant to Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) as an Addition to the Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital.***

***Issuance of Immediate Management Right-of-Entry to HHSC for Hospital Purposes, Kapa'a Kawaihau, Kaua'i, Tax Map Key: (4) 4-6-014:112.***

HHCKR strongly supports the transfer of the parcel from the Department of Health to HHCKR to further its mission of addressing the healthcare needs of Kauai, and in this particular instance, East Kauai. Since 2019, HHCKR has undertaken a comprehensive master planning process to envision the potential future of the Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital (SMMH) campus. This transfer will allow HHCKR to expand services and meet the community's growing needs in accordance with the SMMH Master Plan.

The land will continue to be used for health-related and health system-related services, in keeping with its historical purpose under the Department of Health. An adult day program for individuals with developmental disabilities will remain operational in the existing building on the parcel.

In the near term, HHSC is looking to facilitate broader access to dialysis care for East Kauai and North Shore residents on this property. Currently, many residents face long commutes to Lihue or to other islands for treatment and some patients are missing treatment altogether. The current situation presents both health-related and financial hardships for individuals and families facing access predicaments.

Looking further ahead, HHCKR is committed to expanding its capacity to offer a broad range of healthcare services for Kauai residents, including mental health and substance use disorder treatment. Behavioral health access remains a critical gap on the island. This parcel will provide the opportunity to envision needed office space and facilities to address future pressing needs

A fee simple transfer of the parcel is essential to efficiently manage the property alongside other HHCKR assets. The Legislature acknowledged the importance of operational autonomy for HHSC and its regions in Act 262, Section 22(a), Session Laws of Hawaii 1996, in order to create an efficient and cost-effective healthcare system. This autonomy includes the flexibility to own and manage property, which enables HHCKR to respond effectively to Kauai's healthcare needs. A fee simple transfer will ensure that HHCKR operates in the most responsive and efficient manner possible.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lance K. Segawa".

Lance Segawa, FACHE, MPH, NHA  
Regional Chief Executive Officer