

**From:** [Lisa Cali Crampton](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [HAWAII.EDU-dsahin](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] support letter for item D11 on 1/10/25 BLNR meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 2:29:38 PM

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To the Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;

We are submitting this joint testimony as Dr. Lisa “Cali” Crampton, manager of Kaua’i Forest Bird Recovery Project (KFBRP), and Dr. Dilek Sahin, coordinator of Kaua’i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project (KESRP). We are in strong support of the Cancellation of Governor’s Executive Order No. 4045 to the County of Kaua’i for Hawaiian Stewardship Program Purposes; Issuance of Direct Lease to the University of Hawai’i for Avian Rescue and Research Purposes and Issuance of Immediate Management Right-of-Entry, Hanapepe, Waimea, Kauai, Tax Map Key: (4) 1-8-008:063. This property was formerly used by the County as a Dog Pound.

We strongly support this because having this space leased to these programs will enable our growing teams to continue our mission of protecting some of the most threatened native wildlife on the island, and indeed throughout the state. Here are the key reasons for our support:

- We (KFBRP and KESRP, projects of Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, UH Manoa) collaborate with DOFAW to conserve some of the State's most threatened native wildlife. Our focal species play an important role in the health of the watershed and coastal ecosystems.
- Our programs, particularly KFBRP, are rapidly growing given the magnitude and speed of the declines in native bird species, and the new promise of the Incompatible Insect Technique to combat the main threat to Hawaiian Honeycreepers, mosquito-borne diseases
- KFBRP has outgrown the commercial real estate it has rented for several years and it now spread across two commercial locations, neither of which is well-suited to support conservation efforts
- KFBRP is on a month-to-month lease at one location and neither location has all the amenities and space needed to serve as adequate baseyard (parking, wash stalls, decontamination areas, etc).
- KESRP is squeezed into small container offices on the already crowded main

DOFAW baseyard in Lihue

- Both programs work on the west side of the island
- Having both programs together at one baseyard will allow for synergy and important collaborations between the projects
- Furthermore, DOFAW is in the process of developing a new "West Side Baseyard" around the corner from the former Dog Pound, allowing even more cooperation between DOFAW and PCSU projects
- The Dog Pound is on a well-traveled road and we plan to hold outreach events and/or provide an outreach display to help bring awareness about the threats facing the birds and potential solutions ("what you can do")
- The value of the lease will provide an important in-kind match for federal grants that support both these projects
- Both projects have already secured some funding to help improve and maintain the property and will work with DOFAW and other partners to bring in other funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our joint testimony on this matter.

Drs. Crampton and Sahin

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8 January 2025

Testimony of American Bird Conservancy to Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Agenda Item D-11: Cancellation of Governor's Executive Order No. 4045 to the County of Kauai for Hawaiian Stewardship Program Purposes; Issuance of Direct Lease to the University of Hawaii for Avian Rescue and Research Purposes and Issuance of Immediate Management Right-of-Entry, Hanapepe, Waimea, Kauai, Tax Map Key: (4) 1-8-008:063.

Aloha Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

American Bird Conservancy strongly supports the issuance of a direct lease to the University of Hawai'i for avian rescue and research (Agenda Item D-11). This transfer is critical to the University of Hawai'i's Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit's Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project (KFBRP) and Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project (KESRP). These two programs protect and restore the birds of Kaua'i – some of the most endangered species in Hawai'i and indeed the entire United States.

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is a 501(c)(3) national non-profit organization dedicated to conserving wild native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. We have been actively engaged in Hawai'i for over 15 years, collaborating with state, federal, and private partners to safeguard, manage, and restore critical habitats for some of the most endangered birds in the state across the islands. We have worked extensively with both KFBRP and KESRP over that time to save the highly endangered birds of Kaua'i.

Both projects have accomplished incredible conservation successes, but are severely limited by their current facility space. KFBRP's staff and scope have nearly doubled as they work to prevent the extinction of multiple species due to mosquitoes and avian disease as part of the Birds, Not Mosquitoes partnership. They are currently spread across two commercial locations, so centralizing the project would increase the project's effectiveness and coordination. KESRP has been confined to a small container, but needs additional space as they protect and preserve the highly endangered seabirds of Kaua'i. The current sites do not have the infrastructure (e.g., parking, washing, decontamination areas) needed for each project's activities.

This new site would solve these problems, and allow for new collaborations across the two projects. It would also better serve many of the projects' activities on the western

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side of Kaua'i, and increase the cooperation and coordination with the new DOFAW West Side Baseyard. The new site is also easily accessible to the general public, so will facilitate community outreach events.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources' transfer of this lease is a small action that will have huge benefits in protecting Hawai'i's unique birds. Providing this additional space will prevent future extinctions, and allow for the growth of KFBRP and KESRP to maximize conservation effectiveness and better integrate the local communities in education and outreach activities. This transfer is another concrete example of DLNR's commitment to conservation of our native species and protection of the 'āina, and is to be commended.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this decision. We look forward to our continued partnership with KFBRP and KESRP to protect the birds of Kaua'i, and deeply appreciate DLNR-DOFAW's support and cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Farmer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Farmer, Ph.D.  
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Hawai'i Program Director  
American Bird Conservancy



# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

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January 8, 2025

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl St.  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Item D-11 Cancellation of Governor's Executive Order No. 4045 to the County of Kaua'i for Hawaiian Stewardship Program Purposes: Issuance of Direct Lease to the University of Hawai'i for Avian Rescue and Research Purposes and Issuance of Immediate Management Right-of-Entry, Hanapēpē, Waimea, Kaua'i, Tax Map Key: (4) 1-8-008:063

Aloha Honorable Chair Chang and Board Members:

EO 1713, issued in 1955 to the County of Kaua'i, allowed the Kaua'i Humane Society to operate until they built their new facility in 2001. We are grateful and appreciative for the use of this land to provide support to our island's dogs and cats needing services and shelter during this time.

Former Mayor Bryan Baptiste requested the cancellation of EO 1713 and reset aside the parcel for the County to use as an adolescent residential treatment center in 2003 with EO 4045. In 2010, former Mayor Bernard Carvalho requested the cancellation of EO 4045. After a delay in final disposition of the cancellation, in 2014 Mayor Carvalho requested a reconsideration and asked that the use be amended to promote Hawaiian Stewardship which was approved in 2015. Unfortunately, that use never came to fruition.

Thus, I respectfully request the cancellation of EO 4045. The County of Kaua'i will assist with the transfer before the final cancellation of EO 4045.

In addition, I fully support the use of the parcel by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Natural Sciences, Pacific Cooperative Studies on behalf of Unit: Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Program and Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery Program and Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Derek S.K. Kawakami,  
Mayor