

**From:** [Natalie Graham-Wood](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Land Division - Right-of-Entry Permit to Popoki Place Oahu Cat Sanctuary  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 7:03:42 PM

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To the Board,

I am a resident of the North Shore and I encourage you to issue the Permit to Popoki Place Oahu Cat Sanctuary so it may determine if the parcel is suitable for the sanctuary.

Thank you

**From:** [Linde Keil](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Parcel 53, Approval Right on Entry (ROE)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 11:17:24 AM

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Dear BLNR Team,

I am on the Board of the POPOKI PLACE OAHU CAT SANCTUARY and I am writing to support our President, Holly Holowach, to secure the Approval of Right on Entry for Parcel 53.

I am a retired Prof. of Spanish from UHManoa and KCC and I have been rescuing/trapping/neutering feral and free roaming cats for the last fifteen years!

It is absolutely shocking how fast this population has grown! Stray cats come up my backyard and I see these starving animals hunt for birds or anything to eat.

The HHS does not accept feral or stray kittens unless they are domesticated; this institution is totally overwhelmed. But here I am: I have a Mini-Sanctuary here in my home.

I beg you all, please help us, because we are trying to do good to nature and animals in need!

Thank you VERY much,

**Linde Keil, PhD**

Adjunct Professor of Spanish

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Languages and Literature of Europe and

The Americas

(808) 230-0850



## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: April 9, 2025

To: Chair Dawn N.S. Chang  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of Agenda Item D-6, Issuance of Right-of-Entry  
Permit to Pōpoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary  
Friday, April 11, 2025, 9 a.m., DLNR Boardroom, Kalanimoku Bldg.,  
and via Zoom

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Aloha Chair Dawn Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Agenda Item D-6, Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Pōpoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary for Due Diligence Purposes for the Waiale'e, Ko'olauloa, Oahu, property Tax Map Key: (1) 5-8-001:053.

A large-scale, well-run sanctuary for Free-Roaming cats is a missing piece of the complex puzzle that is humane Free-Roaming cat management on O'ahu. The founders and board members of Pōpoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary have worked diligently to craft a plan that is sound, scalable and focused on protecting wildlife.

Allowing Pōpoki Place to assess the feasibility of operating on this property and the environmental impact of doing so is very much in the state's interests. Pōpoki Place has committed to working with conservation stakeholders to prioritize housing cats removed from sensitive wildlife habitat, a unique mission and one of the reasons why its plan has Hawaiian Humane's strong support.

In an issue as divisive as Free-Roaming cat management, it is rare to have an opportunity to support a project with broad approval from both animal welfare and conservation stakeholders. We urge the board to approve the issuance of this permit and allow Pōpoki Place to take what will hopefully be the first important step in bringing its vision to reality.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** [Melanie Kim](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Popoki Place Sanctuary  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 5:50:47 PM

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Dear BLNR,

Please support Popoki Place Cat Sanctuary's effort to create a fenced enclosure to care for Oahu's feral and homeless cat population and include structures such as a visitor center, offices/housing for caretakers, space/neuter and medical clinic, parking area, utilities, and approved wastewater system.

With so much discussion regarding the negative effects that cats have on wildlife, this will provide an humane solution by providing an enclosed sanctuary for spayed cats to live out their lives in a safe and maintained environment rather than face extermination.

Furthermore, this sanctuary also intends to provide an educational program to teach children and adult adults about Hawaii's fragile ecosystem.

Please support Popoki Place cat sanctuary's application for this land parcel.

Thank you, Melanie Kim

**From:** [Kinsley McEachern](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] testimony in support of issuance of right of entry for Popoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 7:12:27 PM

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Aloha,

I am writing to ask the BLNR to issue the right of entry for the 5013(C) Popoki Place Cat Sanctuary so they can utilize State Agricultural lands on the island of O'ahu. As a wildlife biologist and a cat lover living on the island of O'ahu, I see the benefit of this use of land for both the native conservation community as well as the animal welfare community. It would be such an asset for a cat sanctuary to be developed on our island.

The issue of free roaming cats and the crisis that cat overpopulation has on native endemic wildlife including our threatened and endangered birds, is devastating throughout the Hawaiian islands. Providing rescue groups with the resources to take in cats living near native wildlife and vulnerable ecosystems, and putting them in an enclosed escape proof , contained environment would benefit native wildlife immensely. Furthermore, free roaming cats live a dangerous life prone to disease, sickness, and injury. Allowing the cat rescue group to have enough land to take in stray/ feral cats, spay and neuter and provide vet care and prevent further breeding in these sensitive areas is key. Also, having an island sanctuary that exists to house these cats until they can potentially be adopted out and or given permanent residency away from the potential to harm native birds, is extremely helpful to the community.

I have been a cat foster on the Hawaiian islands, and currently have two rescue kitties of my own that were found in a rural spot on Big Island. They are the most loving companion animals and safe from harm as well as safe from potentially harming native protected birds or monk seals through the entry of toxoplasmosis into the natural environment and marine environment. The development of a cat sanctuary on O'ahu like they have on Lānā'i would be incredibly valuable to our community. Please issue a right of entry so Popoki Place can use these important lands for their sanctuary.

Kind regards,  
Kinsley McEachern

**From:** [Carole R Richelieu](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] hearing Friday, April 11th at 9:00 AM Item D-6  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025 6:27:09 PM

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Due to work, I will be unable to attend and thus offer this testimony. I write in support of a right of entry for Popoki Place to survey and determine what needs to be done to write an EA for the property. We in the community are well aware of the dire need for an animal sanctuary for animals without homes, especially cats with which we work daily in active participation with humane non-profits and volunteers in trap spay neuter programs. Animal sanctuaries should be allowed and promoted by the government as a humane and effective solution which benefits communities and can coexist with the requisite farming. Sanctuaries differ vastly from boarding kennels and the like and need fenced in lands for the necessary life long care. Popoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary is the missing link in the efforts to reduce the free-roaming cat population and reduce cats' impact on native wildlife. Popoki Place will be the much-needed pressure relief valve to help the Hawaiian Humane Society and cat rescue groups do more.

Mahalo for your serious consideration of this solution. Carole R. Richelieu



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SENATOR MIKE GABBARD

21<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

KAPOLEI, MAKAKILO,  
KALAELOA, AND PORTIONS OF  
FERNANDEZ VILLAGE AND EWA



**The Senate**  
**Ka 'Aha Kenekoa**

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

CHAIRMAN

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

MEMBER

JUDICIARY

MEMBER

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

April 9, 2025

Aloha e,

I am writing to support the issuance of right-of-Entry Permit to Popoki Place Oahu Cat Sanctuary.  
Subject parcel: Oahu, Tax Map Key: (1) 5-8-001:053.

I have reviewed their objectives and plan and it's all very common sense and will be a great benefit, not only to cats, but humans and wildlife as well. They have a detailed plan for execution and for sustaining the sanctuary long term. I offer my full support.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Mike Gabbard  
State Senator, District 21

**From:** [Nandita Sharma](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please support approval to Pōpoki Place for a the "Right of Entry" on the North Shore  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 7:26:32 PM

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Dear Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As a resident of the windward side of Oahu, I am writing to encourage you to support Pōpoki Place O‘ahu Cat Sanctuary having a “Right Of Entry” to 20 acres of unused land on the North Shore of O‘ahu from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

This is an important and effective way for the board to show how much it values the community's needs for this project and for the protection of both cats and wildlife.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Nandita Sharma,  
Professor of Sociology,  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

**From:** [Info](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Right of Entry permit to Pōpoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 7:37:06 PM

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Aloha Chairperson Chang and Esteemed Members of the Board,

My name is Chris Thompson, and I am the Director of Lucky Paws Animal Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Honolulu that is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming of sick, injured, and at-risk cats across O'ahu. ([LuckyPaws.org](https://LuckyPaws.org))

I am writing to express our strong support for the approval of a Right of Entry permit to Pōpoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary for due diligence activities on the North Shore parcel listed in Agenda Item D-6.

Lucky Paws has seen firsthand the overwhelming number of free-roaming cats across the island, many of whom come from environmentally sensitive areas. Our shelter is constantly operating at or above capacity, and like many rescues, we face difficult decisions about who we can help. A large-scale sanctuary like Pōpoki Place—designed specifically to house cats removed from areas where native wildlife are at risk—would be a critical addition to the animal welfare and environmental protection landscape in Hawai'i.

Not only would this project alleviate pressure on overwhelmed rescues like ours, but it would also offer an alternative pathway for humane relocation of cats from conflict zones, promoting coexistence between conservation efforts and animal welfare. The long-term vision of Pōpoki Place also includes public education, TNR-aligned practices, and spay/neuter services—efforts that align directly with our mission and that of many partner organizations.

We ask you to please approve this Right of Entry so that the Pōpoki Place team can move forward with their due diligence. This step, while modest, could become the cornerstone of something transformative for O'ahu—a collaborative, practical, and deeply needed project that benefits our environment, our rescue network, and our shared values of compassion and stewardship.

Mahalo for your time and for considering this vital project.

With gratitude,

Chris Thompson

Director

Lucky Paws Animal Foundation

[Info@LuckyPaws.org](mailto:Info@LuckyPaws.org)