

April 25, 2025

Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**RE: Support of Agenda Item J-3 (Boating Lease No. B-99-1 – Waikiki Yacht Club)
Approval of Mediated Settlement of Rental Reopening Dispute**

Aloha, Chairperson Dawn Chang and Members of the Board;

My name is William F. Anonsen, I respectfully submit this letter in strong support of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation's (DOBOR) recommendation to approve the mediated settlement of the rental reopening for Boating Lease No. B-99-1 between the State of Hawai'i and the Waikiki Yacht Club (WYC), retroactive to July 30, 2024, and effective through July 29, 2034.

As a long-time advocate for Hawai'i's maritime sector, community partner, and member of the Waikiki Yacht Club, I commend both DOBOR and WYC for engaging in a thoughtful and collaborative mediation process to resolve the rental reopening impasse in a fair, responsible, and forward-looking manner.

The proposed rental amount of \$420,000.00 annually, or 5% of gross receipts and 10% of mooring fees, whichever is greater—reflects a balanced outcome that recognizes the appraised values and the public trust interest in generating appropriate revenue from state lands, while also ensuring continued operational viability for one of Hawai'i's most storied recreational boating institutions.

The Waikiki Yacht Club has been a steadfast part of our maritime landscape since its founding in 1944. Beyond its economic contribution and responsible stewardship of the Ala Wai leasehold, WYC plays an invaluable role in promoting sailing education, environmental awareness, and community events. Its Junior Sailing Program and community outreach initiatives continue to provide generational value to Hawai'i's youth and residents.

Importantly, in May 2023, the State of Hawai'i officially recognized the Waikiki Yacht Club with a Historical Listing designation, further affirming its cultural, social, and historical significance to the islands. This designation not only honors the Club's long-standing legacy but also underscores the importance of ensuring its continued presence and stewardship within the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor.

By approving the mediated settlement, the Board will support predictability and sustainability for both the State and the lessee. The settlement also avoids the potential cost and uncertainty of prolonged dispute resolution and affirms the value of cooperative engagement in public-private lease negotiations.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve this matter as recommended by DOBOR staff.

Mahalo for your consideration and your continued stewardship of Hawai'i's public lands and maritime resources.

With respect and aloha,

William F. Anonsen

William F. Anonsen
Managing Partner/Principal - The Maritime Group
Member – Waikiki Yacht Club