



HAWAII

1164 Bishop St., Ste. 1512

Honolulu, HI 96813

tpl.org

August 18, 2025

** DELIVERY VIA EMAIL **

Sent Via Email: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

STATE OF HAWAII

Department of Land & Natural Resources

Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of BLNR Meeting, Agenda Item C(3)

DOFAW Acquisition of Private Lands at Ko'olaupoko District, Island of O'ahu

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

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a non-profit land conservation organization. Our mission is to protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. For over 50 years we've worked to protect over 77,000 acres and 52 special places across Hawai'i. Our Aloha 'Āina Program protects lands that perpetuate Hawaiian culture and returns these lands to Native Hawaiian organizations for community and cultural stewardship. Our Sustainable Hawai'i Program conserves lands that support local food production, our forests and their native species, and clean water sources with the goal of improving Hawai'i's self-sufficiency, and food security.

About the Project:

The Kāne'ōhe Pali project will permanently protect forested lands linking state reserves, the Ko'olau Pali National Natural Landmark, Nu'uuanu Pali State Wayside, the Old Pali Road. Rising above Kāne'ōhe, the parcels encompass soaring Pali lands and the peaks of Lanihuli, Kahuauli, and Keahiakahoe, along with waterfalls and foothills that provide critical watershed functions, federally designated habitat for endangered species, and refuge for the Hawaiian hoary bat. The area includes perennial streams that flow to Kāne'ōhe Bay and the He'eia Estuarine Reserve, supporting native aquatic life and coral reef health. Rich in cultural resources—including the historic Kekele (Likeke) Trail, heiau, burials, and kalo terraces—the landscape is highly visible and culturally significant.

Acquiring these parcels for public ownership will safeguard watershed and cultural resources, expand recreational and traditional access, and strengthen the connectivity of O'ahu's protected lands.

Community Support:

Please see the attached Letters of Support from a range of local nonprofit organizations and community associations:

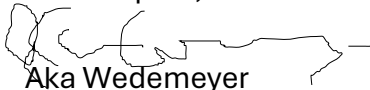
- Mailikukahi Aina Momona Academy (MAMA)
- Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club
- Hui o Ko'olaupoko
- Aloha 'Āina Health Center
- Luluku Farmer's Association
- Hakuhia

U.S. Forest Legacy Program Funding Letters of Support:

- U.S. Congressional Delegation
Senator Mazie Hirono
Senator Brian Schatz
Representative Ed Case
- Mayor Rick Blangiardi, City and County of Honolulu

We humbly ask for the Board of Land and Natural Resources to approve the acquisition of these lands.

Mahalo piha,



Aka Wedemeyer

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND (TPL)

Sustainable Hawai'i Project Manager

Tel. (808) 489-7126

Email: aka.wedemeyer@tpl.org



Kāneʻohe Pali

Adorned by the misty rain of Āpuakea, the cascading green pali (cliffs) of the Koʻolau Mountains are an iconic feature of the windward Oʻahu from Nuʻuanu Pali State Park to Hoʻomaluhia Botanical Garden. Kāneʻohe Pali's lush forests and freshwater streams provide the ideal habitat for native species to thrive. Trust for Public Land is working with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DLNR-DOFAW) to protect this 948-acre natural and cultural landscape to preserve its native forests and watershed, vital to Oʻahu's water security and climate resilience.

Pali Ke Kua, Mahina Ke Alo

The ʻōlelo noʻeau “pali ke kua, mahina ke alo,” meaning “back straight as a cliff, face bright as the moon” is said of a thing of beauty. Indeed, Kāneʻohe Pali is breathtaking, but more than that this ʻōlelo means to be steadfast like the pali, and calm like the moon – in this way the place is similar to the Kāneʻohe community who continue to persevere to protect this land.

Kāneʻohe Pali is home to springs, waterfalls, 11 streams, native forest, priority watershed, and critical habitat for 31 native plants and animals, including the Hawaiian hoary bat and 3 damselflies. These lands contain hundreds of cultural sites including the historic Kekele Trail, the peak of Keahiakahoe, a legendary hala grove, heiau (places of worship) agricultural terraces, irrigation channels, house sites, and burials.



Kāne'ōhe: Land of Kāne, Water of Kāne

Kāne, a Hawaiian deity, takes on many kinolau (bodily forms) such as wai (water), kō (sugarcane), and 'ōhe (bamboo). Kāne is the physical manifestation of freshwater. So, it is no coincidence that Kāne'ōhe (or Kāne's bamboo) is abundant in freshwater springs and 11 streams that provide 1.05 million gallons of drinking water for the City's Board of Water Supply, critical to our island's water security. These streams provide groundwater recharge and feed lo'i kalo (taro patch), loko i'a (fishponds), and Kāne'ōhe Bay's healthy nearshore fishery.

Protecting the Kāne'ōhe Pali

Kāne'ōhe Pali has been negatively impacted by the development of the H-3, Pali, and Likelike Highways. The landowner had previously planned to subdivide and develop the lower foothills of Kāne'ōhe Pali for residential use which was opposed by the community. Acquiring Kāne'ōhe Pali will preserve critical habitat, expand forest restoration, protect vital water resources, and provide opportunities for environmental and cultural education. DLNR-DOFAW will be the future owners of Kāne'ōhe Pali and will partner with local non-profits and the Kāne'ōhe community on stewardship and restoration efforts.

Conservation Acquisition Funding

Pali Lands

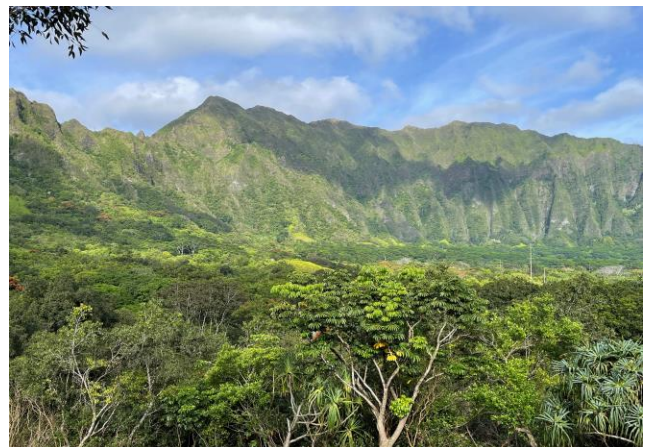
- \$700,000 State Legacy Land Conservation Program (*secured*)
- \$1,300,000 Readiness & Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI) funding (*secured*)
- \$1,792,000 U.S. Forest Legacy Program (*secured*)

We are working on completing an Appraisal, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and Title Review, and helping the State and local nonprofits vision and plan for collaborative land management and stewardship.

About Trust for Public Land

Since 1979, Trust for Public Land has conserved over 77,000 acres throughout Hawai'i. Through our land protection efforts we partner with local communities to safeguard the lands and resources that are special to them.

Our Sustainable Hawai'i Program conserves lands that support local food production, our forests and their native species, and clean water sources to improve Hawai'i's food security and self-sufficiency.



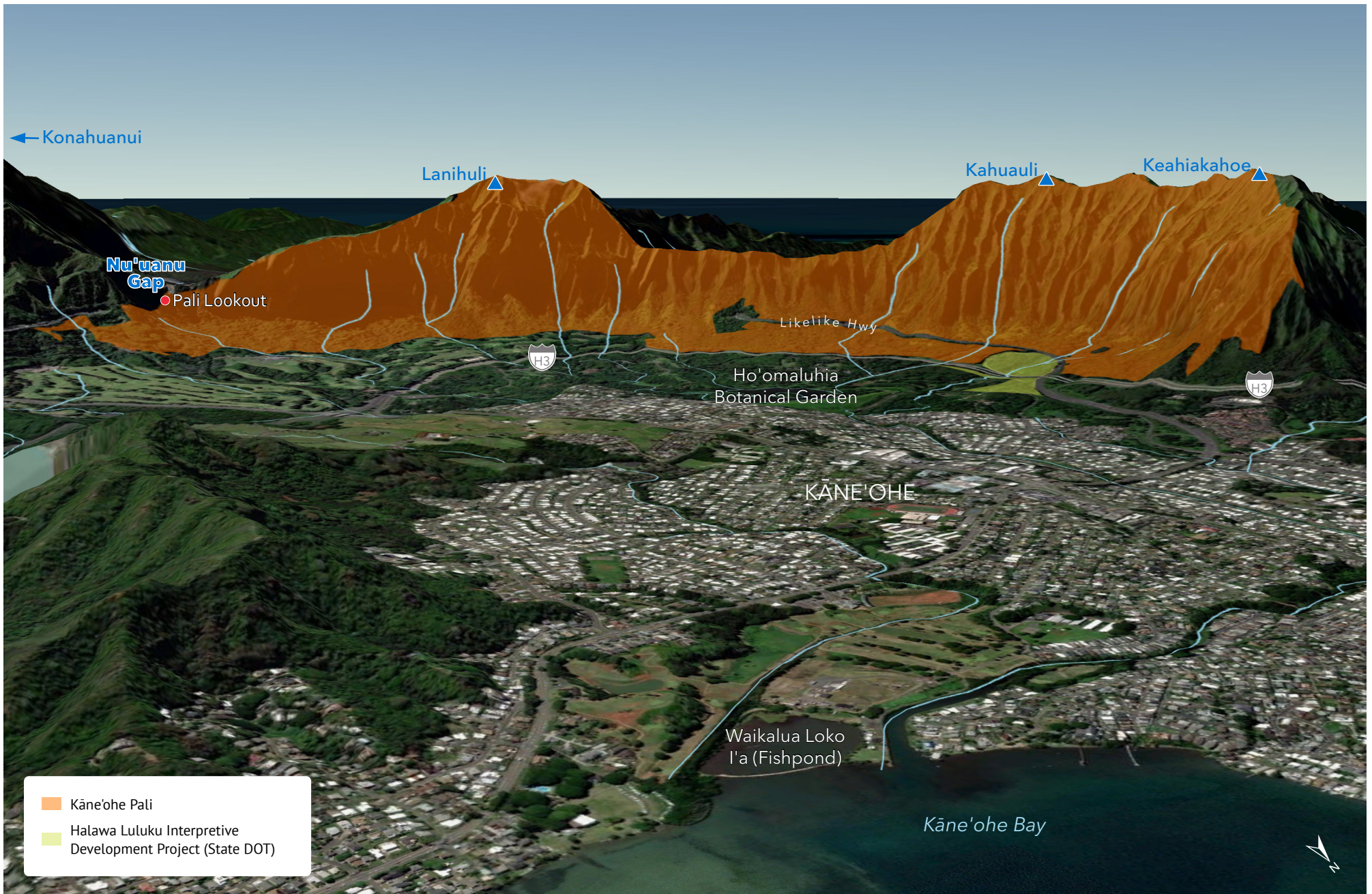
Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

tpl.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Aka Wedemeyer
Sustainable Hawai'i Project Manager
808.460.8939
aka.wedemeyer@tpl.org

PHOTOS: FRONT – ZAK NOYLE, BACK – TPL STAFF.

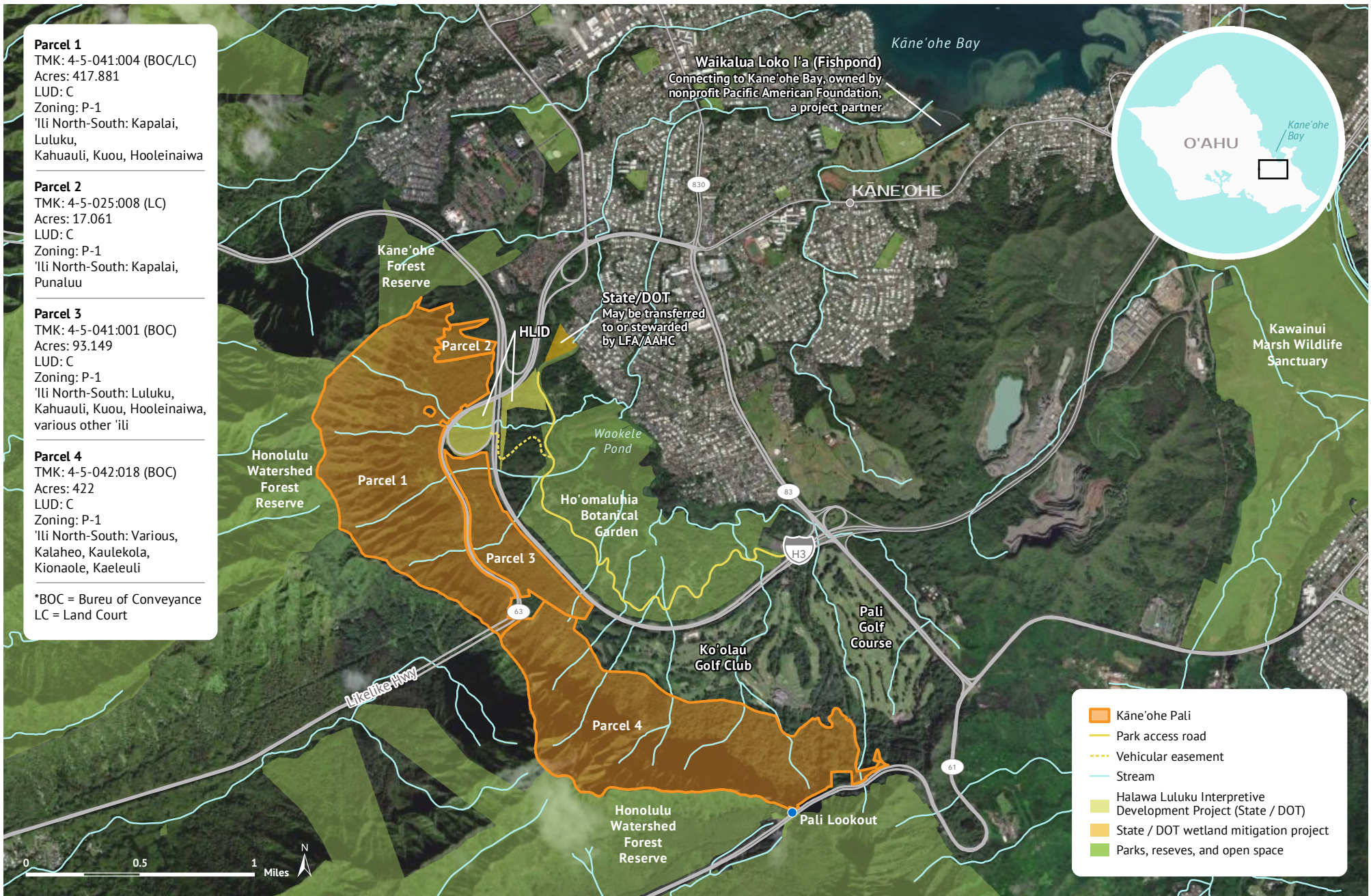


Kāne'ohe Pali

ISLAND OF O'AHU, HAWAII

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Kāne'ohe Pali

ISLAND OF O'AHU, HAWAII

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‘Aukake 10, 2025

The Trust for Public Land c/o Reyna Ramolete Hayashi 1003 Bishop St., Suite 740 Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter in Support of Protecting and Acquiring Kāne‘ohe Pali, TMKs: (1) 4-5-041:004; (1) 4-5-025:008; (1) 4-5-041:001; (1) 4-5-042:018

Mailikukahi Aina Momona Academy (MAMA), supports the State of Hawai‘i Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW), Trust for Public Land, and the Kāne‘ohe community’s efforts to purchase and protect the Kāne‘ohe Pali property in Kāne‘ohe, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i. The mission of DLNR’s Division of Forestry and Wildlife is to responsibly manage and protect watersheds, native ecosystems, and cultural resources and provide outdoor recreation and sustainable forest products opportunities, while facilitating partnerships, community involvement and education.

Kāne‘ohe Pali is a 948-acre property of iconic cliffs (pali) and forested foothills above the town of Kāne‘ohe cherished by our community. The Kāne‘ohe Pali contains native forest and an extensive network of 11 streams which provide critical habitat for 50 endangered plant and animal species. The property is a priority watershed vital for the recharge of the fresh water supply and contributes to the health of our nearshore coastal waters and fisheries in Kāne‘ohe Bay. The lands comprise a vast natural and cultural landscape with ancient cultural sites from the peaks of the Ko‘olau Mountains to a series of higher elevation historic lo‘i kalo (wetland taro) terraces, including the renown Luluku and Kuou terrace systems, ‘auwai (irrigation ditches), historic trails, and burials. DOFAW will own the property and has committed to collaborative agency-community management in partnership with the community, non-profit stewards, area descendants, cultural practitioners, and educators.

MAMA’s vision is to restore ‘Āina Momona within the various moku of O‘ahu through the education of children and ‘ohana that reside in these specific districts of O‘ahu through hands-on lessons of aloha ‘āina. Our program, Ko‘olau ‘Āina Momona, engages with practitioners of the Ko‘olau-poko district to teach and inspire the next generation of these practices such as traditional methods of farming as a source of physical sustenance for their future. Our keiki ages 3 to 16 all have experience working alongside of a mahi ‘ai kalo (taro farmer). They all have planted, maintained, harvested, and eaten kalo from these lo‘i terraces. Keeping these lands intact as a functioning lo‘i kalo, our keiki will be able to sustain their families for generations to come.

Restoring ‘āina momona is only successful when lands such as these in Kāne‘ohe are made available for the community. These lands have been kept in perpetuity for the purpose of feeding



KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

July 24, 2025

The Trust for Public Land
c/o Reyna Ramolete Hayashi
1003 Bishop St., Suite 740
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter in Support of Protecting and Acquiring Kāneʻohe Pali, TMKs: (1) 4-5-041:004; (1) 4-5-025:008; (1) 4-5-041:001; (1) 4-5-042:018 (Luluku and Punalu`u Mauka, Kane`ohe)

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club supports the State of Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW), Trust for Public Land, and the Kāneʻohe community's efforts to purchase and protect the Kāneʻohe Pali property in Kāneʻohe, Oʻahu, Hawai'i. The mission of DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife is to responsibly manage and protect watersheds, native ecosystems, and cultural resources and provide outdoor recreation and sustainable forest products opportunities, while facilitating partnerships, community involvement and education.

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club echoes DLNR's commitment to wise and productive management of our watersheds, native ecosystems and cultural resources, particularly here in the moku of Ko'olaupoko and the ahupua`a of Kane`ohe. As one of the oldest and largest Hawaiian organizations in the Kane`ohe area, our members come primarily from this ahupua`a and throughout the Kane`ohe bay region, and many of our families claim heritage to this area.

Kāneʻohe Pali is a 948-acre property of iconic cliffs (pali) and forested foothills above the town of Kāneʻohe cherished by our community. The Kāneʻohe Pali contains native forest and an extensive network of 11 streams which provide critical habitat for 50 endangered plant and animal species. The property is a priority watershed vital for the recharge of the fresh water supply and contributes to the health of our nearshore coastal waters and fisheries in Kāneʻohe Bay. The lands comprise a vast natural and cultural landscape with ancient cultural sites from the peaks of the Ko'olau Mountains to a series of higher elevation historic lo'i kalo (wetland taro) terraces, including the renowned Luluku and Kuou terrace systems, 'auwai (irrigation ditches), historic trails, and burials. DOFAW will own the property and has committed to collaborative agency-community management in partnership with the community, non-profit stewards, area descendants, cultural practitioners, and educators.

If you have any questions, please contact our government relations chair Mahealani Cypher at email:malamapono744@aol.com.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Charles Naumu, President
Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is one of the largest in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs nationwide. Ko'olaupoko HCC is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians and providing leadership and scholarships. Its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart."

a large amount of people and it is important that they are protected from any future development that drastically alter the natural landscape. Our existing program is surrounded around the physical cultivation of foods raised locally in our community. Keeping these lands intact as a functioning lo'i kalo, will provide a farm that will be able to sustain their families and community for future generations. A goal is to expose and engage our young adults raised in our program to potential careers such as agroforestry, agriculture, natural resource management, and so much more. These verdant lands in Kāne'ohe are a classroom and lifestyle waiting the hands of this next generation. MAMA is excited for the opportunity.

We strongly support DOFAW, Trust for Public Land, and the Kāne'ohe community's efforts to purchase and conserve the Kāne'ohe Pali lands to protect the forested foothills which are threatened by subdivision and development and to avoid any further damage to its precious natural and cultural resources. Protecting these lands would fulfill our community's long-standing goal of protecting our beloved Ko'olau mountains and Kāne'ohe Bay. We look forward to collaborating in the stewardship of these lands in close partnership with DOFAW.

Na'u me ke aloha nui,



Lee Ann Ānuenue Pūnua
Executive Director, Mailikukahi Aina Momona Academy 808-386-8956,
momonaacademy@gmail.com

July 22, 2025

The Trust for Public Land
c/o Reyna Ramolete Hayashi
1003 Bishop St., Suite 740
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter in Support of Protecting and Acquiring Kāneʻohe Pali, TMKs: (1) 4-5-041:004; (1) 4-5-025:008; (1) 4-5-041:001; (1) 4-5-042:018

Hui o Koʻolaupoko supports the State of Hawaiʻi Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW), Trust for Public Land, and the Kāneʻohe community's efforts to purchase and protect the Kāneʻohe Pali property in Kāneʻohe, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi. The mission of DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife is to responsibly manage and protect watersheds, native ecosystems, and cultural resources and provide outdoor recreation and sustainable forest products opportunities, while facilitating partnerships, community involvement and education.

Kāneʻohe Pali is a 948-acre property of iconic cliffs (pali) and forested foothills above the town of Kāneʻohe cherished by our community. The Kāneʻohe Pali contains native forest and an extensive network of 11 streams which provide critical habitat for 50 endangered plant and animal species. The property is a priority watershed vital for the recharge of the fresh water supply and contributes to the health of our nearshore coastal waters and fisheries in Kāneʻohe Bay. The lands comprise a vast natural and cultural landscape with ancient cultural sites from the peaks of the Koʻolau Mountains to a series of higher elevation historic loʻi kalo (wetland taro) terraces, including the renown Luluku and Kuou terrace systems, ʻauwai (irrigation ditches), historic trails, and burials. DOFAW will own the property and has committed to collaborative agency-community management in partnership with the community, non-profit stewards, area descendants, cultural practitioners, and educators.

Hui o Koʻolaupoko (HOK) is a 501(c)3 non-profit watershed management group established in 2007 to work with communities to improve water quality through ecosystem restoration and storm water management, focusing specifically in the Koʻolaupoko region – from Makapuʻu to Kualoa. HOK implements innovative, on-the-ground projects that effectively manage and protect water quality and natural resources in Hawaiʻi.

The conservation and restoration of upland forest systems has a direct impact on the overall health of a watershed, native flora and fauna. Paired with robust community involvement in the protection of these spaces, the positive effects can be wide reaching. Through HOK's past upland restoration projects in Haʻiku and Hakupuʻu we have been able to restore acres of riparian ecosystem to native landscapes and involve thousands of community members including youth in the process.

We strongly support DOFAW, Trust for Public Land, and the Kāneʻohe community's efforts to purchase and conserve the Kāneʻohe Pali lands in order to protect the forested foothills which are threatened by subdivision and development and to avoid any further damage to its

precious natural and cultural resources. Protecting these lands would fulfill our community's long standing goal of protecting our beloved Ko'olau mountains and Kāne'ohe Bay. We look forward to collaborating in the stewardship of these lands in close partnership with DOFAW.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kristen Nālani Kāne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristen Nālani Kāne
Project Director, Hui o Ko'olaupoko
808-381-7202 nalani@huihawaii.org

Aug 11, 2025

The Trust for Public Land
c/o Reyna Ramolette Hayashi
1003 Bishop St., Suite 740
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter in Support of Protecting and Acquiring Kāne 'ohe Pali, TMKs: (1) 4-5-041:004; (1) 4-5-025:008; (1) 4-5-041:001; (1) 4-5-042:018

Aloha kākou,

On behalf of Hakuhia, I express our strong support for the efforts of the State of Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW), Trust for Public Land (TPL), and the Kāne 'ohe community to acquire and protect the Kāne 'ohe Pali property in Kāne 'ohe, O 'ahu, Hawai'i.

Hakuhia, a newly established non-profit, manages the 'āina (land) formerly known as Ko'olau Golf Course, located on the adjacent parcel owned by the First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu. Our mission is to promote healing, restoration, and a stronger relationship between 'Āina (land), Kanaka (people), and Ke Akua (God) by revitalizing a native habitat and watershed that has been degraded over several decades.

Hakuhia and DOFAW staff have maintained regular meetings over the past few years, fostering a strong relationship and gaining a deep understanding of the area's significance to the community and its valuable watershed resources. We are committed to collaborating on the development of plans and best practices concerning trails, access, education, and resource management. This partnership is crucial for future planning and ensuring proper stewardship of the land indefinitely.

We are particularly encouraged by the expertise and dedication demonstrated by DLNR, DOFAW, and TPL, and we eagerly anticipate further collaboration.

If you have any questions, please contact Tara Flynn at tara.flynn@hakuhia.org or 808-286-7058

Me ka ha'aha'a, a me hau'oli,



Tara Flynn
Executive Director, Hakuhia

September 8, 2020

The Trust for Public Land
c/o Reyna Ramolette Hayashi
1003 Bishop St., Suite 740
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter in Support of Protecting and Acquiring Kāneʻohe Pali, TMKs: (1) 4-5-041:004; (1) 4-5-025:008; (1) 4-5-041:001; (1) 4-5-042:018

Aloha Aina Health Center and Luluku Farmer's Association supports the State of Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW), Trust for Public Land, and the Kāneʻohe community's efforts to purchase and protect the Kāneʻohe Pali property in Kāneʻohe, Oʻahu, Hawai'i. The mission of DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife is to responsibly manage and protect watersheds, native ecosystems, and cultural resources and provide outdoor recreation and sustainable forest products opportunities, while facilitating partnerships, community involvement and education.

Kāneʻohe Pali is a 948-acre property of iconic cliffs (pali) and forested foothills above the town of Kāneʻohe cherished by our community. The Kāneʻohe Pali contains native forest and an extensive network of 11 streams which provide critical habitat for 50 endangered plant and animal species. The property is a priority watershed vital for the recharge of the fresh water supply and contributes to the health of our nearshore coastal waters and fisheries in Kāneʻohe Bay. The lands comprise a vast natural and cultural landscape with ancient cultural sites from the peaks of the Koʻolau Mountains to a series of higher elevation historic loʻi kalo (wetland taro) terraces, including the renown Luluku and Kuou terrace systems, ʻauwai (irrigation ditches), historic trails, and burials. DOFAW will own the property and has committed to collaborative agency-community management in partnership with the community, non-profit stewards, area descendants, cultural practitioners, and educators.

The mission of the Aloha ʻAina Health Center is to build a healthy community through holistic nutrition and healthy lifestyle programs. Aloha ʻAina seeks to accomplish its mission by fostering community participation in traditional Hawaiian sustainable farming, preparing traditional Hawaiian foods, learning and teaching the healing power of a traditional Hawaiian diet, and providing a place to share the Hawaiian healing arts. Aloha ʻAina Health Center (AAHC) and Luluku Farmer's Association (LFA) has been dedicated to restoring the lands of Luluku and culturally significant areas of Kāneʻohe for the past 2 decades. LFA has been an agricultural entity that has existed since the mid 1900's when Kāneʻohe was flourishing with bananas and other types of agriculture. During the past 20 years, LFA and AAHC has serviced our community, schools, and families through farming and activities surrounding the restoration of culturally significant sights within the ahupuaʻa of Kāneʻohe, more specifically the lands in discussion.

The protection of these lands and a partnership with DOFAW will enable our organizations to reach deeper into our community and build stronger relationships with the partners that we have worked with in Kāneʻohe, including DOFAW for the past 2 decades. The acquisition of these lands enable us to have a stronger foundation to build relationships in our community surrounding food security, education, and social restoration that can serve our community for generations to come.

We strongly support DOFAW, Trust for Public Land, and the Kāneʻōhe community's efforts to purchase and conserve the Kāneʻōhe Pali lands in order to protect the forested foothills which are threatened by subdivision and development and to avoid any further damage to its precious natural and cultural resources. Protecting these lands would fulfill our community's long standing goal of protecting our beloved Koʻolau mountains and Kāneʻōhe Bay. We look forward to collaborating in the stewardship of these lands in close partnership with DOFAW.

Mahalo,

Mark Paikuli-Stride
Haku ʻAina/President, Luluku Farmer's Association (LFA)
(808) 492-3882, mpaikulistride@gmail.com

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 19, 2020

The Honorable Vicki Christiansen
Chief, U.S. Forest Service
Sidney R. Yates Building
201 14th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20227

Re: U.S. Forest Legacy project submissions for FY 2022

Dear Chief Christiansen:

We are writing in strong support of three applications from the State of Hawaii to the Forest Legacy Program for FY 2022 funding for the following projects: (1) Kaneohe Pali for \$1,792,000, (2) Hana Highway Coastal Rainforest for \$4,000,000; and (3) Kealakekua Inholding for \$2,000,000.

Kaneohe Pali. The State of Hawaii, with non-profit partner the Trust for Public Land, is requesting \$1,792,000 in funding from the program to purchase the fee simple title to the property, which consists of 948 acres of forested watershed on Oahu Island, Hawaii's most populated island. The Kaneohe Pali project's spectacular soaring cliffs (pali) and foothills lie above the town of Kaneohe, on the wet windward side of the island. Native forest and 11 streams on the site provide designated critical habitat for 50 federally endangered species of plants and animals. The project area is a priority watershed vital for recharge of the fresh drinking water and agricultural irrigation water supply and contributes to the health of nearshore coastal resources and fisheries in Kaneohe Bay. The project area is also culturally rich with hundreds of ancient Hawaiian sites, including historic trails, burials and agricultural terracing used for the growing of taro or kalo, the Native Hawaiian staple food. The project's scenic beauty can be observed in the expansive views from nearby state and county parks as well as two major highways with thousands of daily commuters. The property is currently for sale and does not allow public access. This property is threatened by subdivision for residential development.

Hana Highway Coastal Rainforest (HHCR). The State of Hawaii is requesting \$4,000,000 from the program to purchase the fee simple title to the property, which consists of 1,047 acres of coastal forest on Maui. Cascading waterfalls, towering cliffs, and coastal rainforest are just a few of the important features of this property. HHCR provides unparalleled backcountry recreation opportunities and secures public access to forest and shoreline resources that support cultural and subsistence use. HHCR contains designated federal critical habitat for five rare plant species and nesting habitat for 10 different seabird species. Originating at the summit of Haleakala Volcano, 12 streams flow down to the sea through HHCR, providing 10

miles of habitat for native stream fauna. Under private ownership, HHCR is under imminent threat as its dramatic scenic features, accessibility, and lack of protection make it well suited for conversion to non-forest uses, such as residential development. Strategically located next to a state forest reserve, acquisition is a priority for the state who is actively working to strengthen and expand the continuity of protection and management of the region's forests from the summit to the sea. HHCR will also expand the existing 108,000-acre network of contiguous state, federal, and non-profit reserves that encompass Haleakala.

Kealakekua Inholding (KI). The State of Hawaii is requesting \$2,000,000 from the program to purchase the fee simple title to the property, which consists of 1,054 acres on the island of Hawaii. 9,000 acres of completed Forest Legacy Conservation Easements protect 65 percent of Kealakekua from development, but nested within sit 1,054 acres of unprotected open space. Threat of development is high for this KI tract as the current owner plans to subdivide the property to build homes with small agricultural lots. Connected to over 400,000 acres of forest, Kealakekua is blanketed with a mosaic of intact native, tropical and wet forests, interspersed with tracts of pasture that are prime for reforestation with valuable native hardwoods. KI is strategically located within one of the state's largest networks of working native forests, 35,000 acres are restoring and/or producing high value koa wood products and sandalwood essential oil, and there are two oil processing facilities located less than five miles away.

We are highly supportive of the Forest Legacy Program's contributions to the protection of Hawaii's significant and unique landscapes and ecological resources as a component of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). We are thankful that these benefits to Hawaii can be accelerated through the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, passed by Congress and signed into law earlier this year on a bipartisan basis.

These projects continue efforts to connect protected landscapes and provide recreational access across the Hawaiian Islands. Accordingly, within applicable rules and regulations, we would appreciate your full and fair consideration of the State of Hawaii's requests for funding. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Ed Case
United States Representative

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

MICHAEL D. FORMBY
MANAGING DIRECTOR

DANETTE MARUYAMA
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

October 6, 2021

The Honorable Randy Moore
Chief, U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am writing in support of the State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife's and The Trust for Public Land's application for funding from the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Legacy Program, to purchase the Kāneʻohe Pali lands located in Kāneʻohe, Oʻahu.

Protecting the Kāneʻohe Pali is consistent with the City's Oʻahu General Plan, the regional Koʻolaupoko Sustainable Communities Plan, and reflects key objectives identified in the City's 2021 Annual Sustainability Report for building resilient communities and promoting climate change mitigation strategies.

This proposed land acquisition aligns with my administration's commitment to make Oʻahu a truly great place to live, work, and play for residents and visitors, alike. The forested cliffs and foothills of Kāneʻohe Pali capture rain essential for our aquifers, provide native wildlife habitat, and offer community benefits such as protected cultural sites, agroforestry opportunities, scenic beauty, outdoor recreation, and a unique Hawaiian sense of place.

The sheer mountain faces are visible from the City's 400-acre Hoʻomaluhia Botanical Garden. In 2021, the garden's vast, open view plane welcomed over 300,000 visitors. The garden is known worldwide as a green oasis in which to hike, camp, picnic, and enjoy nature. Between 2015 and 2020, garden attendance increased by over 40 percent, further supporting the high value placed on this majestic, open space.

Federal funding from the Forest Legacy Program would provide the essential support for this timely land acquisition. Through this plan, we will protect our irreplaceable natural, cultural, and community resources for future generations.

Mr. Randy Moore
October 6, 2021
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If you need further information or assistance please contact Laura H. Thielen, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), at (808) 768-3001.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rick Blangiardi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rick" and last name "Blangiardi" clearly distinguishable.

Rick Blangiardi
Mayor

cc: L. Thielen, DPR
Michael D. Formby, Managing Director