RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR. Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA Managing Director

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## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR COUNTY OF MAUI 200 SOUTH HIGH STREET WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAI'I 96793

www.mauicounty.gov

November 12, 2025



Ms. Dawn N. S. Chang Chairperson, Board of Land and Natural Resources State of Hawai'i Kalanimoku Building 1151 Punchbowl St. Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Ms. Chang,

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 222, KNG KAMEHAMEHA III ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE, AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 1614 & 1675, LAHAINA LIBRARY SITE; ISSUANCE OF IMMEDIATE MANAGEMENT RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMIT TO COUNTY OF MAUI AND SET ASIDE OF SIX (6) PARCELS OF GOVERNMENT LANDS, VIA GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER, TO COUNTY OF MAUI FOR CULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL RESORATION, EDUCATION AND ANCILLARY PURPOSES, LAHAINA HISTORIC DISTRICT, LAHAINA, MAUI; TAX MAP KEYS: (2) 4-5-001: 052 (REMNANT PARCEL); (2) 4-6-001: 007 (LAHAINA LIBRARY SITE); (2) 4-6-001: 012, PA PELEKANE STREET); (2) 4-6-002: 014 (KING KAMEHAMEHA III ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE); (2) 4-6-007: 044 (REMNANT PARCEL).

The 2023 Lahaina wildfires stimulated a renewed push for the revitalization of Moku'ula, Loko o Mokuhinia and other historically and culturally significant lands for the healing and recovery of the Lahaina community and lāhui. These lands carry tremendous significance in Hawaiian history as the royal palace of King Kamehameha III from 1837 to 1845, connections with many of Maui's and Hawaii's greatest rulers, and religious significance as a sacred site.

The County of Maui is in support of the above referenced actions. Approval of this request will allow the County to collaborate with community stakeholders to restore, honor and protect the numerous culturally significant sites in a coordinated and holistic manner. The <u>Lahaina Royal Complex</u> is a priority project identified in the Lahaina Long-Term Recovery Plan (December 2024).

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The County of Maui Department of 'Ōiwi Resources has engaged the services of a multi-disciplinary consultant team to help develop a Master Plan for the Lahaina Royal Complex. The Lahaina Royal Complex Master Plan will create a comprehensive community vision for the spaces and 'āina that comprise the Royal Complex. It will weave together cultural and historic sites, surrounding parts of the town, educational and recreational activities, parking, access, and movement around the area. The Master Plan will combine the deep knowledge and lived experiences of the community with technical expertise, in-depth research, and thoughtful analysis to inform a comprehensive vision for the Royal Complex.

The Board's action to set aside the above referenced parcels via executive order to the County of Maui is an important step in the process of restoring, honoring and protecting these culturally significant lands. I deeply appreciate the continued support of Governor Green and the Department of Land and Natural Resources in this effort.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kapono'ai Molitau, Director of the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources, at John.K.Molitau@co.maui.hi.us or by phone at (808) 270-1719.

Sincerely,

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR. Mayor, County of Maui