



**Ka Moku'aina 'O Hawai'i Aha Moku O Pae'Aina
State of Hawai'i Aha Moku**

**P. O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Hawaii State Aha Moku Testimony
To the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Land Board)

Friday, November 14, 2025

Agenda Item L-1: Authorize the Chairperson to Issue, Amend, Manage or Revoke Dam Safety Permit No.P86 for the removal of the Kalihiwai Reservoir (KA-0024), to the Kalihiwai Ridge Community Association, CG Utilities LLC, and Porter Irrigation Company; authorize the removal of the Kalihiwai Reservoir (KA-0024) from HRS 179D Inventory of Regulated Dams; and authorize an amendment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) orders from its meeting on April 28, 2023, Item L-1, by allowing 12 months from issuance of permit to start construction. Anahola, Kauai, TMK (4) 5-2-022:03.

Aloha Chairperson Chang and Honorable Members of the Land Board.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) advises the Land Board to support Agenda Item L-1.

Attached to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) through Act 288, SLH 2012, the Hawai'i State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) is comprised of forty-six (46) moku, and six-hundred and six (606) traditional natural and cultural resource districts within the eight main Hawaiian Islands. Working with the native Hawaiian communities and Public Trust, generational knowledge of these resources has been handed down generation to generation for centuries. The value of this knowledge shared with all stakeholders and protectors of Hawaii's environment is the continued sustainability of Hawaii's unique ecosystem which differs island to island, and the protection of native Hawaiian traditional and cultural *ho'oma'a* (practices). Manokalanipo (Island of Kaua'i) consists of eight traditional moku – Koloa, Makaweli, Waimea, Napali, Halele'a, Ko'olau, Puna Akau and Puna Hema. Agenda Item L-1 is located in the *Ahupua'a* of Kalihiwai, Moku O Halele'a.

For decades now, native Hawaiian traditional *loio* (practitioners), those with generational knowledge of different *a'o 'o'ole'a* (native Hawaiian disciplines) within the Kalihiwai *Ahupua'a* have protected their *ho'oma'a*. However, the Kalihiwai Dam was built in the 1920's for western agricultural irrigation, and as stated in the DLNR submittal, currently continues to be used for agricultural irrigation storage as well as irrigation. In a Reconnaissance Level Survey, done in June 2023, not found was a connection between the dam and traditional or customary Native Hawaiian practices or rights. The Halele'a Aha Moku representative, Mr. Presley Wann connected with lineal descendants of Kalihiwai and it is their voices that Aha Moku brings forward. 'Ohana with traditional *ike* (knowledge) of Kalihiwai who were contacted, supported the removal of the Kalihiwai Reservoir.

However, Maka'ala Kaumoana, a Kupuna and resident of Kalihiwai, as well as a part-owner of the reservoir, through the Kalihiwai Ridge Community Association, offered concerns about how areas mauka of the reservoir were used to gather maile and bamboo shoots¹. She acknowledged “that there are likely no historic preservation assets in or around the reservoir such as Iwi Kupuna”. Further her concerns were ²“1) that Hawaiian native endangered water birds use the area daily, and nest there; and 2) that the reservoir can be used to provide potential fire protection.

The lineal descendants with generational knowledge of the environment, ecosystem and traditional *mahiai ho'oma'a* (agricultural practices) of Kalihiwai are united in their support of this reservoir removal. Aha Moku also supports the DLNR Engineering Division in their recommendation that no Ka Pa'akai Consultation Assessment was necessary due to the fact that there were no indications of “cultural impacts or downstream effects” if this reservoir removal progresses, or is completed.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku, led in this issue by Kalihiwai/Moku O Halele'a representative Presley Wann who did an in-depth conversations with 'Ohana with lineal and cultural connections to Kalihiwai, supports the DLNR Engineering Division in their recommendation that the Land Board authorizes the Chairperson to issue, amend, manage or revoke Dam Safety Permit No. P86 for the removal of Kalihiwai Reservoir (KA-0024) from HRS 179D Inventory of Regulated Dams; and authorize an amendment to BLNR orders from its meeting on April 28, 2023, Item L-1, by allowing 12 months from issuance of permit to start construction.

Respectfully and humbly yours,

Presley Wann, Halele'a Moku
Luna wehe pilikia O Kalihiwai (Representative of Kalihiwai)
808-645-1722
thiswann@yahoo.com

Rocky Kaluhiwa, Po'o
Hawaii State Aha Moku
808-286-7955
Rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com

Billy Kaohelauii, Po'o
Manokalanipo (Kaua'i)
808-742-9575
terriehayes@gmail.com

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/E.D.
Hawaii State Aha Moku
808-640-1214
leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov

¹ Bamboo is not native to Hawaii. Despite common misconceptions, bamboo is actually an introduced plant species in Hawaii. It is not indigenous to the Hawaiian islands.

² Mrs. Kaumoana also acknowledged that there were no current traditional and cultural practices that reservoir removal would affect. Also, per generational knowledge of the history of Kalihiwai Reservoir, the endangered native Hawaiian water birds did not inhabit the area prior to the building of the reservoir in the 1920's.

