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February 23, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources
Ryan K. P. Kanakaole, Acting Chairperson
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii 96813

BY EMAIL ONLY
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MEETING IN HONOLULU on February 27, 2026, at 9.00 am: Agenda Item E-1

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT of the Proposed Transfer of Lands at Hā'ena Beach Park and Maninihola to the Division of State Parks

Aloha,

I have been a resident of Kauai for more than fifty years, and have visited Ke'e, the Hā'ena Beach Park and the Maninihola Dry Cave many times, with family, friends, and visitors from the Mainland United States, Europe and Asia. In the last twenty years, we've had an opportunity to see the negative effects of uncontrolled tourism all over the island.

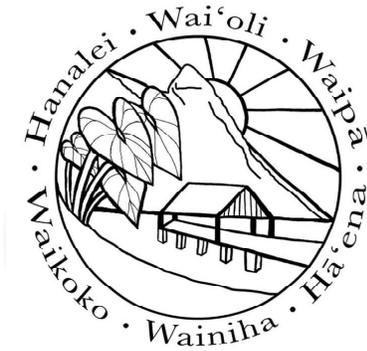
None appeared more seriously adverse than the North Shore of Kauai, from Hanalei to Hā'ena.

And none appears more successfully solved than the partnership between the Division of State Parks and the Hui Maka'āinana o Makana's co-management at Hā'ena. Their cooperation has led to successful crowd-control measures and tourist management, and serves as a model for Hawaii and many other jurisdictions.

I strongly support the Proposed Transfer of Lands at Hā'ena Beach Park and Maninihola to the Division of State Parks. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter to the Kauai community.

Very truly yours,





Hanalei-Wainiha-Hā'ena Community Association
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February 23, 2026

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Re: Support for Item E.1 on February 27, 2026 BLNR Meeting Agenda (Hā'ena Beach Park)

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

The Board of Directors of the Hanalei-Wainiha-Hā'ena Community Association (HWHCA) strongly supports the proposed transfer of Hā'ena Beach Park to the State of Hawai'i.

We are enthusiastic about the opportunity that this transfer will create to address the very negative impacts of overtourism at the park and to restore meaningful access to local residents who have been crowded out from the park by that overtourism.

Based on the positive working relationships that have been created between the community, State Parks, Hui Maka'āinana o Makana and the Hanalei Initiative as a result of the Hā'ena State Park planning process and the successful co-management and stewardship of the state park, we are confident that the needs of the local community, all other residents of Hawaii, and visitors to Hawaii can be equitably accommodated, to the benefit of all of these stakeholders.

We look forward to participating in an inclusive and comprehensive Hā'ena Beach Park planning process that we believe will result in substantial improvements in:

- Access (including parking, shuttle transport and alleviation of overcrowding) to the park;
- Fishing, camping and "traditional and customary" uses of the park;
- Management of "spillover" impacts on nearby neighborhoods, beaches and parks; and
- Ongoing, transparent, adaptive management of park resources.

The HWHCA therefore urges you to support the Division of State Parks' Recommendations to: (i) authorize the acquisition of Hā'ena Beach Park and Maninihola Dry Cave, (ii) approve and recommend to the Governor the issuance of an Executive Order setting aside Hā'ena Beach Park and Maninihola Dry Cave to DLNR-Division of State Parks; and (iii) declare this project exempt from the requirement to prepare an Environmental Assessment.

We also take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation of the Division of State Parks' role and support in creating the potential to achieve the improvements outlined above.

Carl Imperato, President
Hanalei-Wainiha- Hā'ena Community Association