
[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda Item F3, BLNR meeting 27 FEB 26

From Bobby Camara <kuabay@hawaiiantel.net>
Date Tue 2/24/2026 11:52 AM
To DLNR.BLNR.Testimony <blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Welina mai,

I share my unequivocal strong support of advancing the [Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan](#) to public hearing as part of the administrative rulemaking process.

A kama'āina of Honoka'a, Hāmākua, I first visited the coastal lands of Kekaha Wai 'Ole, Kona 'Ākau (North Kona), in 1972. I became entranced with the 'āina and kai, and over decades developed deep aloha for those lands. Back then, one could choose what fish to have for dinner, or select which 'opihi to pick and eat. Lamentably, those days were long gone when TryWait, the 10-year kapu on fishing and gathering sea life was instituted.

The past nearly 10 years have seen a remarkable rebound in populations of sea life, though challenges remain.

More people forage for foods as economy worsens.

'Opihi are illegally gathered and sold to make money for family sustenance or to feed drug habits. Increasing populations, road access, and access by boat add immense pressure to harvestable resources.

Social media encourages many to seek out formerly isolated places.

The thought of Community and Sharing, and leaving some for the future, seems to have fallen by the wayside.

Me, me, me, seems to be a common mantra.

We have nearly lost the spirit and feel of Aloha 'Āina. We cannot let that happen.

Public participation and hearings are essential and must be part of our collective educational processes so the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan can be implemented.

I pray for enlightened decision-making.

Me ke aloha,

Bobby Camara
Kea'au HI

[EXTERNAL] Support for BLNR Agenda item F3, for February 27, 2026

From Lauren Kaponon <lauren@kiholo.org>

Date Tue 2/24/2026 11:54 AM

To DLNR.BLNR.Testimony <blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Lauren Kaponon and I SUPPORT the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and associated fishing rules going to a public hearing as part of the administrative rule making process.

As a Native Hawaiian community member who has engaged with the Kalaemanō shoreline for over ten years, I believe the submitted Fisheries Management Plan was developed with great care and intention. It is strongly supported by education and outreach efforts, meaningful community engagement, citizen science initiatives, and a consistent, long-term dataset of monitoring.

I have been fortunate to both learn from and teach within this place, using the natural environment of Kalaemanō as a living classroom for community-based resource management. This space has been introduced to the next generation as a productive and abundant garden—one that demonstrates the value of mālama 'āina and mālama kai in practice

The initiative to implement the try-wait approach came directly from both lineal and active fishers of this place. As the try-wait period comes to an end, I strongly believe that this community has gone above and beyond any other to propose harvesting regulations that are practical, reasonable, and rooted in community values, while also being supported by data. These regulations are designed to ensure productive and regenerative fish populations for the future of this fishery.

This effort is about more than simply taking what you need. As a society, we must think beyond the present, to the next 10, 50, and even 100 years, especially as our world and human behaviors continue to change. Understanding life cycles and fisheries as interconnected systems is essential if we are to provide a growing island community with the opportunity to responsibly harvest from the ocean for generations to come.

The community of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, through their community-based non-profit Hui Kahuwai, has thoughtfully engaged in a deliberate eight year planning process rooted in kilo, mo'okū'auhau of place, and kuleana to mālama 'āina and the kai. They have conducted over two years of robust outreach on the fisheries plan by consulting with 'ohana, fishers and other interested stakeholders, public scoping, online surveys, outreach events, and scientific conferences. They have engaged over 6000 people through outreach events, over 1700 students through educational programs, and over 600,000 interactions through social media.

Hui Kahuwai has worked collaboratively with the State to refine the proposed Fisheries Management Plan, so it reflects both lived fishing knowledge of the community and contemporary management needs. The plan has been revised four times in response to feedback received, strengthening its ability to be effectively enforced, while safeguarding the gains achieved during the 10-year "Try Wait" rest period. This work builds on decades of observation, monitoring, collaborative planning, and reflects a comprehensive co-management approach to ensure the gains of Try Wait are not lost. The

community is ready to move forward with administrative rulemaking to ensure that sustainable, subsistence-based fishing can responsibly resume in the Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o.

We urge the Board to approve a public hearing for the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and administrative rules.

M.S Lauren Kaponu

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Lauren M. Kaponu

Hui Aloha Kīholo

"If I have courage, it is because I believe in the knowledge of my ancestors." Papa Mau

February 23, 2026

Chair, Members of the Board,

My name is Vern Yamanaka. I am here in full support of the request to hold public hearings on the proposed Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Area and in full support of this rules package.

My connection to the Ahupua'a of Ka'ūpūlehu began in 1960 when my father who represented Signal Oil Company the master lessee of the Ahupua'a, introduced me to the subject site. In 1980 I represented Barnwell Industries (Ka'ūpūlehu Developments) in the acquisition of the master lease have been involved in entitlement, marketing and management ever since. Four generations of our family have worked and been involved in the management of the resources of Ka'ūpūlehu. We consider Ka'ūpūlehu a part of our family history.

We have been honored to work with Families of the Ahupua'a in all aspects of caring for the natural resources and history of this land. Prior to development of the Hualālai Resort access to the coastline through the Ahupua'a lands was controlled. There was no public access and the marine resources were abundant. While there was lateral coastal trail access, the public was not able to access the coastline through the Ahupua'a without permission from the Lessee or Kona Village Resort. In the process of approving the Hualālai Resort the County and State of Hawai'i mandated public access as a condition of approval. **There was no requirement for either entity to address the environmental impact of how public access would affect the marine resource.**

The impact of public access was immediate. Upon construction of the resort there was a noticeable decline in the fishery stock. The impact accelerated and 10 years ago the families together with the support of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Advisory Committee lobbied for the present closure to try and bring the marine resource back to a sustainable level. We thank the Board for having the vision to enact the closure. The closure was effective in bringing the stock back. We realize how difficult it is for the State to effectively manage marine resources. That reality is exactly why this rules package is so important.

We hope that the Board will now support moving into a comprehensive Fisheries Management phase and would build on the foundation achieved by "Try Wait". Protecting the resource is critical but, Try Wait always envisioned moving at some point to a sustainable management plan that allowed take. Moving forward with such a plan will establish a template for the management of other resources in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Vern Yamanaka
428 Naniakea St.
Hilo, Hi. 96720

[EXTERNAL] Support for BLNR Agenda item F3, for February 27, 2026

From Ava Salmi <Ava.Salmi@fourseasons.com>

Date Tue 2/24/2026 12:30 PM

To DLNR.BLNR.Testimony <blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Ava Salmi and I SUPPORT the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and associated fishing rules going to a public hearing as part of the administrative rule making process.

This ahupua'a is historically one that supported fishing, and is one that should remain for fishing in the future. Sometimes, we need to take pressure off of our resources in order for them to grow and maintain themselves for future generations to come. I am not a fisher myself, however my work involves protecting the natural resources of Ka'ūpūlehu, and my hobbies include spending time in the ocean. We all deserve the right to use these resources; however, we need to think of the larger health of our kai as well. Our humanity does not exempt us from the interconnectedness to one another and to all other beings.

The community of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, through their community-based non-profit Hui Kahuwai, has thoughtfully engaged in a deliberate eight-year planning process rooted in kilo, mo'okū'auhau of place, and kuleana to mālama 'āina and the kai. They have conducted over two years of robust outreach on the fisheries plan by consulting with 'ohana, fishers and other interested stakeholders, public scoping, online surveys, outreach events, and scientific conferences. They have engaged over 6000 people through outreach events, over 1700 students through educational programs, and over 600,000 interactions through social media.

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We urge the Board to approve a public hearing for the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and administrative rules.

Mahalo nui,

Ava Salmi



Ava Salmi

Outreach and Education Specialist, Natural Resources

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Subject Line: Support for BLNR Agenda item F3, for February 27, 2026

Aloha e Chair and Members of the Hawai‘i Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Malia Kipapa, and I write in strong SUPPORT of the Ka‘ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and its associated fishing rules moving forward to a public hearing as part of the administrative rulemaking process.

I am a kupa of Moku o Keawe and a lineal descendant of Kona, Pāhoehoe and I come from a long line of shoreline and deep-sea Lawai‘a. My advocacy for the Try Wait initiative began during my time on the West Hawai‘i Fisheries Council in 2009. It was then that I first learned of the intentional and courageous effort set forth by the families and stakeholders of Ka‘ūpūlehu, who chose to voluntarily sacrifice their own fishing practices to allow their fishery time to recover.

The kupa of this place witnessed firsthand the diminishing of their resources and the absence of fish species that were once abundant growing up. Their commitment to a period of rest to restore the ‘ono and abundance of their fisheries deeply resonated with me, and I fully support their initiative and sacrifice. During my time with the Hawaii Community Stewardship Network as Hawai‘i Island Coordinator, I was introduced to stories that spoke to the history and ‘ike of this special place. I also participated in ‘ōpihi monitoring efforts in Ka‘ūpūlehu. These experiences grounded my understanding of both the ecological and cultural significance of this place.

Through my continued work alongside the stewards of Ka‘ūpūlehu and members of Hui Kahuwai, I have witnessed their consistency, integrity, and deep intentionality. The proposed management plan is pono, community-driven, and thoroughly vetted. It reflects a genuine commitment to the well-being of the place, its po‘e kai, and the ‘ohana o Kekahawaiole. They present this plan with humility and aloha, guided by ‘ike kūpuna and a vision for long-term sustainability.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve the advancement of this plan to public hearing and to support the Ka‘ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and its associated administrative rules. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

With Aloha,



Malia L Kipapa

[EXTERNAL] Support for BLNR Agenda item F3, for February 27, 2026

From Forest Frizzell <forestaf@gmail.com>

Date Tue 2/24/2026 1:56 PM

To DLNR.BLNR.Testimony <blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, My name is Forest Frizzell and I SUPPORT the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and associated fishing rules going to a public hearing as part of the administrative rule making process.

This collaborative model of preserving critical wahi pana has proven to be effective, moreso its a model that can and should be shared across the entire paeaina.

The community of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, through their community-based non-profit Hui Kahuwai, has thoughtfully engaged in a deliberate eight-year planning process rooted in kilo, mo'okū'auhau of place, and kuleana to mālama 'āina and the kai. They have conducted over two years of robust outreach on the fisheries plan by consulting with 'ohana, fishers and other interested stakeholders, public scoping, online surveys, outreach events, and scientific conferences. They have engaged over 6000 people through outreach events, over 1700 students through educational programs, and over 600,000 interactions through social media.

Hui Kahuwai has worked collaboratively with the State to refine the proposed Fisheries Management Plan, so it reflects both lived fishing knowledge of the community and contemporary management needs. The plan has been revised four times in response to feedback received, strengthening its ability to be effectively enforced, while safeguarding the gains achieved during the 10-year "Try Wait" rest period. This work builds on decades of observation, monitoring, collaborative planning, and reflects a comprehensive co-management approach to ensure the gains of Try Wait are not lost. The community is ready to move forward with administrative rulemaking to ensure that sustainable, subsistence-based fishing can responsibly resume in the Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o.

We urge the Board to approve a public hearing for the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and administrative rules.

Malama Pono,
Forest

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Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono - Kamehameha III (born Kauikeaouli)

[EXTERNAL] Support for BLNR Agenda item F3, for February 27, 2026

From Pua'ala Pascua <puaalaikahoni@gmail.com>

Date Tue 2/24/2026 2:49 PM

To DLNR.BLNR.Testimony <blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha pumehana kākou,

I stand in strong **SUPPORT** of the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and associated fishing rules going to a public hearing as part of the administrative rule making process.

In 2010, I was introduced to the shoreline of Ka'ūpūlehu during undergraduate studies on intertidal ecology and what would later be described as Indigenous and local knowledge. Over the 15 years since then, I've had the privilege of knowing and supporting the lineal descendant and multigenerational 'ohana of Ka'ūpūlehu and the 'āina Kaha in numerous capacities as they exemplify what it means to know and to care for the places that care for us.

While I submit this testimony in my personal capacity, in my professional role I lead a statewide program that identifies and supports the enabling conditions for ahupua'a stewardship (inclusive of the nearshore environment) in present day contexts. As a community-centered and community-driven effort to guide interactions with the shoreline in Ka'ūpūlehu, the Fisheries Management Plan demonstrates what it looks like when contemporary management tools derive from decades of observation, monitoring, collaborative planning, and co-management approaches.

I urge the Board to **approve a public hearing** for the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and administrative rules.

Na'u me ka ha'aha'a,
Pua'ala Pascua

Support for BLNR Agenda item F3, for February 27,2026

Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Michael Kozlak and I SUPPORT the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and associated fishing rules going to a public hearing as part of the administrative rule making process.

My engagement with Hawaii began in 1961 with a visit to my father's "Hawaiian mother" who supported him, and other service men, during World War II. He died young, but her, and his, love for Hawaii took hold within me. Our family began visiting in 1979, we built a home at the Hualalai Resort in 2009 and became full time residents in 2022.

I have fished for most of my life in the fresh waters of Minnesota and southern Canada. I saw the impact "freezer" fishing and other abusive practices had on our lakes. The over harvesting dramatically impacted many lakes' ability to sustain even moderate levels of fish stock. The current outlook is quite dim. I do believe a more forward-looking approach could have dramatically impacted the results in those waters.

I was made aware of the KMLAC in 2023 and that there were no residents of the Hualalai Resort community engaged with their, and subsequently, Hui Kahuwai's, efforts. Learning about "Try Wait" and a future Fishery Management Plan, gave me hope that the fate of our Hawaiian waters may not have to follow that of my home. Since then, I have attended most of their monthly meetings and observed the effort to craft fisheries manage plan that would accomplish the mission of bringing **sustainable, subsistence fishing** back to the Kaupulehu Marine Reserve.

My testimony is based on my 40-year career as a business leader innovating to accomplish great outcomes. I have participated in, and led, many successful mission driven efforts to create transformation in different marlets. I have learned that success is where there is alignment between Mission, Strategies, Structure, Systems, Staff, and Skills and Culture. All these boxes have been checked in the plan documentation. In all my years, I have never observed or participated in a more authentic and effective **mission driven process** to create a defined powerful outcome.

From the **passion** of the Advisory Council members to the **objective scientific expertise**, the **insights of local fishing practitioners**, the **breadth of the stakeholder engagement**, the implied **partnership with DAR**, the **length of time** of the effort, the **personal commitment** of countless individuals, this effort was unparalleled. Whenever future impactful changes are desired in the Hawaiian Islands, this process is the model to be followed. This process has resulted in a plan

that has the depth and potential to truly transform the way community focused fisheries can be effectively managed.

Any plan, regardless of the quality of the work to create, has risks. The process to create a high-quality plan tries to mitigate those risks while meeting the objective of the mission. I believe the above process has resulted in a **plan that has a high likelihood of success**.

Any transformational, mission focused plan requires on-going monitoring, assessment and adaptation. I am especially encouraged that the plan highlights the need for monitoring and adaptation. The existing techniques for monitoring are practical and well proven. It is likely there will be even better monitoring tools in the future and those will be incorporated. The co-management structure between Hui Kahuwai and regulatory agencies creates an effective forum for monitoring, assessment, assessment and modification of tools, and adaptation when required.

Over the last year, I have made a significant effort to reach out to many stakeholders within the Hualalai community about this plan. In my position as a resident, I met with Hualalai ownership, management, employees, residential community members, member advisory groups to assure awareness, gather input, align the underlying cultural foundations of the different groups and, hopefully, enhance the likelihood of willing acceptance and ultimate success of the plan.

I have found no opposition to the mission. I have heard opposition to specific tactics embedded in the plan. Although this opposition can be heard and understood, it does not reflect the depth of experience, objective analysis, alternatives and trade-offs considered, mission impact and cultural foundation embedded in the existing plan.

The proposed Fisheries Management Plan is the result of years of work. It was created by passionate and skilled individuals with an ambitious mission. It followed proven practices that were customized to address the unique needs of the community. It imbeds both high levels of quantitative information and high-quality assessment. It involves trade-offs to engage most constituents, while retaining focus on mission. It provides for effective ongoing management. It wholistically addresses all the criteria to enable innovation. It has a very high likelihood of success.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve a public hearing for the Kaupulehu Fisheries Management Plan and Administrative Rules.