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

From Andrea <andreaehlr@gmail.com>

Date Tue 2/24/2026 4:38 PM

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

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

My name is Andrea Ehlers 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.

I support pono fishing. Seeing the abundance and diversity of marine animals in the Ka'ūpūlehu has been amazing. The interactions with the fish here are unique to this place and I want to continue to have that relationship with them. I hope to see a continual replenishment of fish populations not over harvesting. It is amazing seeing what the ten year try wait rest period has accomplished.

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.

Aloha,
Andrea

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

From Molly Noelani Mamaril <mollymamaril@gmail.com>

Date Tue 2/24/2026 4:48 PM

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

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

My name is Molly Noelani Mamaril and I SUPPORT the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and associated fishing rules going to a public hearing as part of the administrative rulemaking process.

I work in ocean conservation with a mālama 'āina nonprofit on O'ahu, and I am a strong supporter of communities like Ka'ūpūlehu because their 'ike and long-term relationship to place are essential to responsible stewardship. Having local residents observe, assist, and support the health of the place is integral to rebuilding the health of the ecosystem.

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 through public scoping, online surveys, outreach events, and scientific conferences. They have engaged over 6,000 people through outreach events, over 1,700 students through educational programs, and generated 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 the 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, and 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 Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o. We urge the Board to approve a public hearing for the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and administrative rules.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Molly Noelani Mamaril

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

From Analu Ford <analuford@gmail.com>

Date Tue 2/24/2026 9:00 PM

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

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

My name is Analu Silva. My family and I SUPPORT the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and associated fishing rules going to a public hearing as part of the administrative rulemaking process.

In the late 80s, I fished this coastline and enjoyed my right as a Kanaka to gather food for my family. Later in 2009 or so, I worked for the National Park Service through the Ala Kahakai program and built a relationship with the descendants of the ahupuaa. Now that it is developed it saddens me. Thank goodness for the descendants and Hui Kahuwai who are still there fighting for this place. I support them and their needs to protect this wahipana in this ahupuaa.

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.

Mahalo,
Analu Silva

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

From Lehua Alapai <lehuaalapai@gmail.com>

Date Tue 2/24/2026 11:21 PM

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

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

This is Lehua Alapai 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.

I am a lineal descendant of the Kekaha Lands of Kona and am privileged enough to still work in my homeland. Currently, I work in a lowland dry forest of Ka'ūpūlehu.

I have been to the meetings that Hui Kahuwai has held with 'ohana and community so I know that 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. 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.

I am ready to move forward with administrative rule-making to ensure that sustainable, subsistence-based fishing can responsibly resume in the Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o.

Please, I urge you to have a public hearing for the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and administrative rules.

Mahalo nui for your time.

--

Lehua Alapai,

Ho'ōla Ka Makana'ā, Programs Director

Ka'ūpūlehu Dryland Forest

lehuaalapai@gmail.com

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

From Madison Kearsey <madison.kearsey@yahoo.com>
Date Wed 2/25/2026 6:30 AM
To DLNR.BLNR.Testimony <blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov>

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

My name is Madison Kearsey 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.

Ka'ūpūlehu is such a special place from the amount of abundance to the amount of people who care for the space, once you enter you can feel that. I have had the opportunity to spend many days in Ka'ūpūlehu and I can tell you, it is healing. To let the community, natural resource managers and 'Ike Kapuna continue to support this land and sea in the way they see fit is, the only outcome to further Ka'ūpūlehu as a continued resource.

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.

Madison Kearsey

 Attachment.png



[EXTERNAL] Support for BLNR item F-3 agenda

From Colleen Wann <thiswann@yahoo.com>

Date Wed 2/25/2026 7:40 AM

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

Aloha honorable Chair and members of the BLNR,

My name is Presley Wann I am a lineal descendant of NaPali, Ha'ena, and Wailua, Kaua'i. I am in Support of Ka'upulehu Fisheries Management Plan and associated fishing rules going to public hearing as part of the administration rule making process. As part of the Ha'ena Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area initiative, community driven and government supported is the way forward to future of natural resource management. With the lost on the konohiki system, communities are the konohiki, they know their natural resources through generational knowledge and observations. I urge the BLNR to approve a public hearing as part of the administration rule making process.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this important matter,
Presley Wann

Sent from my iPhone



Hui Aloha Kiholo

Our mission is to protect, perpetuate and enhance the cultural and natural landscape of the Kiholo Bay area through collaborative management and active community stewardship.

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 130
Honolulu, HI 96813

25 February 2026

Subject: Support for BLNR Agenda Item F3 on February 27, 2026

Dear Chair and Members:

As Director for the native Hawaiian non-profit organization Hui Aloha Kiholo, I can confirm our **strong support for agenda item F3, authorizing advancement of the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Area plan to public hearing.**

We kindly request that the primary public hearing be held in, or close to our shared region of Kekahawai'ole, north Kona. We respect and learn from the input of all, and those who do not live, dive, and fish in our region frequently can commute or share virtually while those who do.

We know that co-management works. Authorities working with informed practitioners was the way Hawai'i was managed for abundance and amazing fishing for hundreds of years - of course better information feeds better decisions! For the past 18 years our team worked with community and State Parks to collaboratively care for the lands and waters of the 4,000 acre + Kiholo State Park. We lead maintenance, education, and enhancement efforts to maintain, revitalize, and perpetuate fishing practice at Kiholo.

We understand that agencies and organizations must be both **humble and bold** to forge a path together. Kudos to the Division of Aquatic Resources, Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement, and DLNR staff for working directly with the community to develop the proposed rules within Hawai'i's current legal system, so that we can all fish sustainably soon.



Hui Aloha Kiholo

Our mission is to protect, perpetuate and enhance the cultural and natural landscape of the Kiholo Bay area through collaborative management and active community stewardship.

The fishing and cultural community of Ka'ūpūlehu has sacrificed for almost 10 years to invest in returning abundance to their reef. We support them to return sustainable fishing practice to the waters they know intimately. We have seen firsthand that this has been a difficult journey through work, volunteer, and family gatherings. Both practitioners and scientists have cried, bled, struggled, and sometimes questioned if this was the right course of action. Ultimately the ocean responded clearly and definitively. Ka'ūpūlehu and Kīholo have benefitted.

I was able to see this firsthand during an invasive spearfishing event where my son and I were invited to target invasives. While not every species of fish showed recovery, there were positive indicators in the behavior, size, and abundance of many fish our family loves to eat. Some of there were in areas right next to shore where they performed a vital role for the reef that they would not have survived eleven years ago.

There were also behaviors consistent with illegal poaching in some areas of the reef we dove - commercial and sustenance fish acting running at a farther distance than their conspecifics. While most people follow the rules, there must be inclusion of enforcement to discourage those few who do not.

Ka'ūpūlehu has considered this too, and we need to hear from our community now before the 10-year period ends. This is vital to maintain trust in government. The fish need the people that need the fish to make good decisions with good information. Please support this effort to ensure long-term management, inclusive of, and responsive to, community input can move forward for the benefit of fishermen, fish, corals, and community.

Aloha,

Chad Wiggins
Hui Aloha Kīholo
hualohakiholo.org



Kamehameha Schools®

Board of Land and Natural Resources

Time: 9:00am

Date: February 27, 2026

Where: DLNR Boardroom

TESTIMONY

Kā'eo Duarte

Vice President, 'Āina Pauahi

RE: In Support of the Agenda Item F(3), **Request to Hold Public Hearings on the Proposed Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Area Rules**

Aloha e ka luna kūikawā Kanaka'ole a me nā Lalā o ke Kōmike,

Kamehameha Schools appreciates the opportunity to support Agenda Item F(3), requesting to hold public hearings on the Proposed Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Area Rules and amendments to the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area, Hawaii, including repeal of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Reserve rules.

As the majority landowner and konohiki within the ahupua'a of Ka'ūpūlehu, and an active member of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee since its formation, Kamehameha Schools recognizes our kuleana for the long-term health and stewardship of the marine and coastal resources of Ka'ūpūlehu, as well as to the lineal descendants and broader community connected to this place.

In 2012, Kamehameha Schools supported the *Try Wait Initiative* and the rulemaking that established the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Reserve, and we continue to support the community's efforts to implement a sustainable fisheries management framework for Ka'ūpūlehu. Our support today reflects continuity in that longstanding commitment to community-based marine stewardship.

The proposed Chapter 13-60.12 establishes a comprehensive management framework, including defined boundaries, bag and size limits, seasonal management, gear restrictions, a fishing permit requirement, 'Opihi Rest Area Rotational Zones, the Kai Malu Management Area, and recognition of the Wai a Kāne cultural site and freshwater spring. The proposed amendments to Chapter 13-60.4 transition from the Marine Reserve structure to a Fisheries Management Area and reestablish the Fish Replenishment Area consistent with the community-developed plan.

Kamehameha Schools recognizes the extensive engagement that has informed this proposal,

including two decades of collaboration among lineal descendants, kūpuna, fishers, researchers, landowners, and state agencies, and engagement of over 10,000 people in over 300 outreach events. The integration of traditional place-based ecological knowledge with contemporary fisheries science reflects a thoughtful and balanced approach to long-term resource stewardship.

Kamehameha Schools humbly supports the proposed Ka‘ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and associated rule amendments. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your consideration of this important community-led initiative.

Founded in 1887 through the Will of Ke Ali‘i Bernice Pauahi Pākī Bishop, Ke Kula ‘o Kamehameha is a private, educational, charitable trust committed to empowering Native Hawaiians in perpetuity by improving the well-being of our people through education. We envision our haumāna, strong in E Ola!, grounded in Hawaiian and Christian values, succeeding in post-secondary education and contributing through ‘ōiwi leadership to a thriving and self-determined lāhui.

**Board of Land and Natural Resources
Department of Aquatic Resources
1151 Punchbowl St.,
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813**

Date: February 25, 2026

Re: Agenda item F.3 testimony in support of approval to hold public hearings on the adoption of “Ka‘ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Area” and amendments to WHRFMA”

My name is Kaikea Nakachi and I was born and raised in North Kona, Hawai'i Island, and I strongly support agenda item F3. My parents first brought me and my twin sister to Ka‘ūpūlehu when we were only a few months old. He‘e from Ka‘ūpūlehu fed our ‘ohana for our baby lū‘au. Its shores continued to feed me and shape me as I grew up and swam its shallows and surfed its waves. It also became a place where our family restarted our ancestral practice of kahu manō. This brought my ‘ohana into contact with the lineal descendants of Ka‘ūpūlehu, Kūki‘o, and Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a. I am grateful to have learned so much from them and their ‘āina. I am particularly grateful to join them in conducting the important traditional practice of aloha as reciprocity. Aloha for the people of place, the visitors to the place, and above all for the place itself. This led me to be welcomed with open arms to join and aid the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee (KMLAC), and to eventually be one of the founders of Hui Kahuwai, continuing the generations-spanning reciprocal practice of mālama ‘āina.

While away in college where I studied Biological Oceanography, I would return every winter and summer and join KMLAC meetings. When I graduated magna cum laude with my degree in 2015, I returned home in time to support the Try Wait effort and see it pass through the BLNR to establish the Ka‘ūpūlehu Marine Reserve in 2016. That same year I started graduate school at UH Hilo studying Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science. I continued to attend KMLAC meetings during and after graduating graduate school with my masters. I was able to observe the gains of waiting and was able to participate in the many meetings to design the fisheries management plan. Words cannot describe the dedication, care, and diligence spent to craft a plan with so much love, purpose, and aloha. Thanks to our wonderful leaders and matriarchs, that aloha is for all, even those who doubt or oppose the marine reserve and rules to replace it. That aloha is evident in the sheer amount of time we have spent getting anyone and everyone's feedback and trying to incorporate as much as we can in our plan while still accomplishing our goal of promoting sustainable subsistence fishing to Ka‘ūpūlehu.

After years of monitoring, and the beginning work of understanding the various management options available to us, in 2023 we created a survey that we sent to as many people and fishers as we could. We invited them to Ka‘ūpūlehu for invasive fish removal events and asked them to fill out our survey. We went to conferences and presented our work and asked community members there to fill out our survey. That survey asked the fishers, community members, and general public what was it they wanted to see in a management plan at Ka‘ūpūlehu. We used that survey to inform our process and culminate several years work to complete our first draft of our fisheries management plan in November of 2023. We then began a process that ended up being over two years of outreach to get feedback on the plan.

As can be seen in the administrative record of Hui Kahuwai's proposal, we held dozens of outreach presentations, presented at conferences in forums to allow audience participation, held more invasive fish removal events, and hosted various councils, communities, and networks to share our plan and receive feedback. This effort reached its peak when we joined DAR to hold 3 separate public scoping events, including virtual zoom options, to reach as many people from across the pae'āina. Over those two years and across all those outreach efforts, we then amended our plan four different times to incorporate feedback from the public. I cannot think of any other effort that went through that much outreach and amendments before even starting the chapter 91 process, which also allows for public hearings and another opportunity to provide feedback for incorporation.

I have supported community-led efforts across the pae'āina from Hā'ena to Hilo and many places in between. I believe the mission of DLNR is best upheld when people of place area allowed to work with agencies to promote traditional values and practices. The best management outcomes result when this collaboration is maintained, most recently exemplified with Miloli'i and Kipahulu and their CBSFAs. I supported those efforts then, and I believe you will find their testimonies in support of this effort now as well. If DLNR continues to work with place-based mālama 'āina orgs and communities, the future of Hawai'i will be bright. Please acknowledge the incredible amount of work that has been done for Ka'ūpūlehu and allow us to go to the next phase of public hearings and get us one step closer to our goal of returning sustainable subsistence fishing to Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o.

Mahalo nui,
Kaikea Nakachi

KAI KULEANA



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

Date: February 27, 2026

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

Kai Kuleana is a network that strongly supports advancing the Ka‘ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and its associated fishing rules to public hearing as part of the administrative rulemaking process. This plan provides essential guiding principles and enforceable measures to minimize impacts, ensure pono practices, and safeguard the long-term health of their nearshore fisheries.

Made up of hoā‘āina (stewardship) communities across West Hawai‘i, from South Kona to North Kohala, fostering place-based conservation that enables both people and nature to actively engage and thrive together. Collectively, Kai Kuleana is committed to solution-oriented, community-driven actions that promote ‘āina momona — healthy, vibrant places sustained by engaged and responsible communities. Our network strengthens collaboration among communities to perpetuate traditional practices through active stewardship, capacity building, and place-based management that remains intimately connected to the kai.

We stand in strong support of Hui Kahuwai’s efforts to move this management plan forward through the rulemaking process. Hui Kahuwai has undertaken extensive community outreach, incorporated valid scientific data, and engaged diverse stakeholders through in-person gatherings and online platforms. Having exhausted every reasonable measure to ensure transparency and inclusivity, the community is ready to proceed with administrative rulemaking so that sustainable, subsistence-based fishing may responsibly resume in Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o.

We are confident that once approved, the Ka‘ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan will not only provide effective stewardship guidelines for this fishery, but will also serve as a model for other communities across Hawai‘i. The dedication, aloha ‘āina, and sacrifice demonstrated by this community during years of voluntary rest reflect an unwavering commitment to future generations. This effort strengthens not only the fishery, but the community as a whole.

Kai Kuleana extends deep mahalo to the Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o communities, Hui Kahuwai, and the families who have remained steadfast throughout years of planning, monitoring, and rest. We honor their resilience and leadership in ensuring that our natural and cultural resources are cared for and able to thrive into the future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our perspectives as West Hawai‘i hoā‘āina (stewards).

Signed on behalf of Kai Kuleana by lineal descendants and community representatives,



Mike Nakachi, Moana 'Ohana



Chuckie Leslie, 'Ike Lawai'a



Ku'ulei Keakealani, Hui Aloha Kiholo



Kawika Ruddle, Ruddle 'Ohana



Charlie Young, KUPA Friends of Ho'okena Beach Park



Shane Akoni Nelson, Ho'āla Kealakekua Nui, Inc



MiuLan Pa'alua, Ho'ola



Malia Kipapa, Ka 'Ohana Kipapa



Jeana Kelekolio, Hui 'Ohana o Hōnaunau



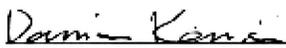
Kaikea Nakachi, Hui Kahuwai



Reggie Lee, Lee 'Ohana of Kohanaiki



Ka'imi Kaupiko, Kalanihale



Damien Kenison, Kauhakō Ohana Association



Shenell Caldeira, Nā 'Ōiwi o Pu'uanahulu

In Strong Support:

- Pi'i La'eha, La'eha 'Ohana of Kalahuipua'a, Kohala
- Pualani Maielua, Ka 'Ohana Maielua from Kailapa Kohala
- Jeff Coakley, Kohala Culture & History Advisory Group (Coakley)

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

From Kawika Ruddle <kawikar@msn.com>
Date Wed 2/25/2026 9:35 AM
To DLNR.BLNR.Testimony <blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc Kawika Ruddle <kawikar@msn.com>

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

My name is Kawika Ruddle, and I am writing in strong support of moving the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and its associated fishing rules forward to a public hearing as part of the administrative rulemaking process.

My relationship to the ocean comes from growing up with and learning from the land and ocean of Lalamilo ahupua'a. Through years of fishing, diving, swimming, and ongoing observation, I have watched reef systems decline when pressure is unmanaged—and I have also witnessed how quickly life returns when the ocean is given time to rest. A quick point being COVID 19, and how the reef and ocean changed in just a 8-month period of time. The principle behind "Try Wait" reflects knowledge passed down through generations and confirmed by what many of us see with our own eyes.

The past decade at Ka'ūpūlehu has clearly shown what works. Fish populations have rebounded, average sizes have increased, and spawning behavior has returned. These improvements did not happen by accident. They are the result of restraint, shared responsibility, and a community commitment to mālama the resource so that subsistence fishing can continue for future generations. Without a clear and enforceable management framework, these gains remain vulnerable.

The Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o community, through Hui Kahuwai, has dedicated nearly eight years to developing a fisheries management plan rooted in observation, mo'okū'auhau of place, and kuleana. This process has been inclusive, deliberate, and transparent—engaging families, fishers, students, and the broader public through outreach events, education programs, and open consultation. It represents the kind of community-led stewardship that Hawai'i has long called for.

Equally important, Hui Kahuwai has worked closely with the State to refine the plan over multiple revisions, responding to feedback and strengthening enforceability while protecting the hard-won gains of the Try Wait period. The result is a balanced, practical approach that honors traditional subsistence practices while meeting contemporary management needs.

Allowing this plan to proceed to public hearing is a critical next step. It ensures continued community participation and helps secure a future where fishing at Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o remains sustainable, respectful, and grounded in care for the resource.

I respectfully urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to approve a public hearing for the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and its associated administrative rules.

Mahalo,
Kawika Ruddle

[EXTERNAL] Support for BLNR agenda item F3 for 2/27/26

From Buffy Nakachi <buffy@moanaohana.com>

Date Wed 2/25/2026 9:44 AM

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

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

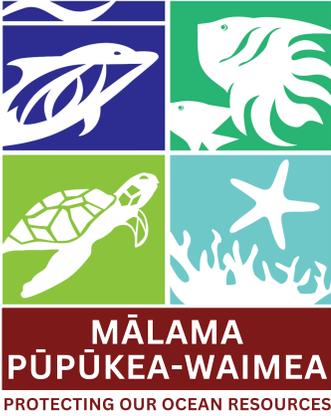
I live on the west coast of the Island of Hawai'i and have a personal and family connection to the 'aina.

The community of Ka'upulehu and Kuki'o, through their community-based non-profit Hui Kahuwai, has thoughtfully engaged in a deliberate 8 year planning process rooted in kilo, mo'oku'auhau of place, and kuleana to malama 'aina and the kai. They have conducted over 2 years of robust outreach on the fisheries plan by consulting with 'ohana, fishers and other interested stakeholders, public scoping, online surveys, outreach events, over 1700 students through educational programs, and over 600,000 interactions through social media.

Hui Kauwai has worked collaboratively with the State of Hawai'i 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 rule-making to ensure that sustainable, subsistence-based fishing can responsibly resume in the Ka'upulehu and Kuki'o.

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

Mahalo,
Buffy Nakachi
808-640-3872
PO Box 4454
Kailua Kona, HI
96745



Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea

Post Office Box 188
Hale'iwa, HI 96712

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*Jenny Yagodich
Director of Educational Programs &
Makai Watch Coordinator*

Federal Nonprofit Organization
501(c)(3) FEIN 27-0855937
www.pupukeawaimea.org
info@pupukeawaimea.org

February 25, 2026

To: Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources Board
of Land and Natural Resources, 1151 Punchbowl Street,
Boardroom, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Strong Support: Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan
Agenda Item F3 (2/27/26)

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

Please accept this testimony in strong support of the Ka'ūpūlehu and
Kūki'o Fisheries Management Plan and the request to advance it to
public hearing.

Having testified in support of this effort ten years ago at the start of
the "Try Wait" period, that support remains steadfast today. The
Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o community made the difficult decision to
close their fishery for a full decade to allow resources to recover, a
meaningful demonstration of mālama 'āina, patience, and
long-term vision. Such commitment reflects deep respect for kūpuna
knowledge and a dedication to ensuring abundance for future
generations.

Through Hui Kahuwai, the community has engaged in years of
careful, place-based planning grounded in kilo, mo'okū'auhau, and
broad outreach. The plan has been thoughtfully refined to
incorporate community input and strengthen its effectiveness, while
protecting the gains achieved during the ten-year rest period.

This work has been deliberate, collaborative, and responsible.
Approval of a public hearing is a warranted and appropriate next
step.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,

Jenny Yagodich

Jenny Yagodich
Director of Educational Programs &
Makai Watch Coordinator



February 25, 2026

Re: BLNR Agenda item F3, February 27, 2026

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board,

My name is Dr. Mary Donovan, and I am submitting this testimony in my official capacity as a faculty member of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology. My expertise is in marine ecology, data science (computation, statistics, and data stewardship), and ecosystem-based fisheries management. I am the Principal Investigator of the Hawai'i Monitoring and Reporting Collaborative (HIMARC), which serves Hawai'i by helping to bridge the gap between data and decisions related to the status and trends of neashore reefs and fisheries.

How data are incorporated into decision making is not always straight forward, and this is often the case for Hawai'i's nearshore fisheries where challenges abound, especially when a consensus or synthesis of data is warranted. Questions related to the management of the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Reserve for which scientific data could serve a purpose demonstrate many of these challenges. For example, relevant data on the status and trends of reef fishes have been collected by multiple organizations, and internal analyses and interpretations of those data by those organizations may or may not serve all purposes, especially when shared conclusions are valued. Likewise, perceptions of when, how, and who reports on those data may not be perceived by all players in the same way.

To attempt to address these challenges, we tried a new approach, an approach that focused on consensus building.

Over the course of the past ~10 months, four groups came together to co-produce results and shared conclusions about trends in resource fishes inside and outside of the reserve. These groups included Hui Kahuwai, the Division of Aquatic Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and the University of Hawai'i. While each of these groups has some history of working with one or more of the other groups, this is the first time that all four came together in one conversation with the goal of co-producing research findings. Through the process we built trust and shared conclusions that contribute to overcoming several common challenges such as data sharing, incorporating multiple ways of understanding, and finding consensus.

In the submittal, and attached again here, you will find the results of this co-produced research.

We found the following key results, which contribute evidence for (1) evaluating the outcome of the Try-Wait period, and (2) developing future management targets for adaptive management:

1. Resource fish biomass increased both inside and in adjacent areas outside of the reserve across 3 different habitat types.
2. The increase in resource fish biomass inside the reserve was greater than adjacent areas in the shallow coral habitat.
3. The greatest increase in resource fish biomass was in the shallow bench area, a habitat unique to the area.
4. Recent resource fish biomass is greater inside the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Reserve compared to areas of similar habitat elsewhere in North Kona.

Our analyses thus far have focused on a key metric, resource fish biomass, for assessing the outcome of the management goal for the Try Wait period. We are continuing to meet and co-produce further research from multiple relevant datasets, with the intention of submitting a comprehensive assessment of patterns and trends of reefs and reef fishes as a peer-reviewed publication in the coming months. We look forward to keeping the Board and broader community informed of our progress.

The results we have co-produced are comprehensive, quality controlled, statistically robust, and incorporate multiple datasets and perspectives to reach a shared conclusion that is highly applicable to management. These attributes are very rare in circumstances such as this, and are of great value to this process.

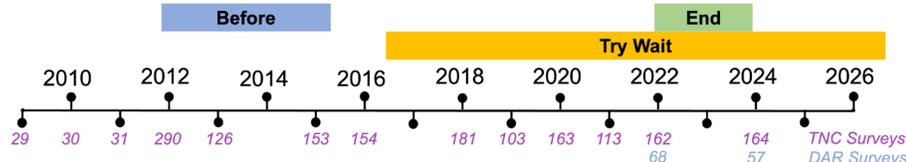
Sincerely,



Mary Donovan, PhD
Assistant Professor
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Measuring and comparing change in resource fishes within the 10-year Try Wait area

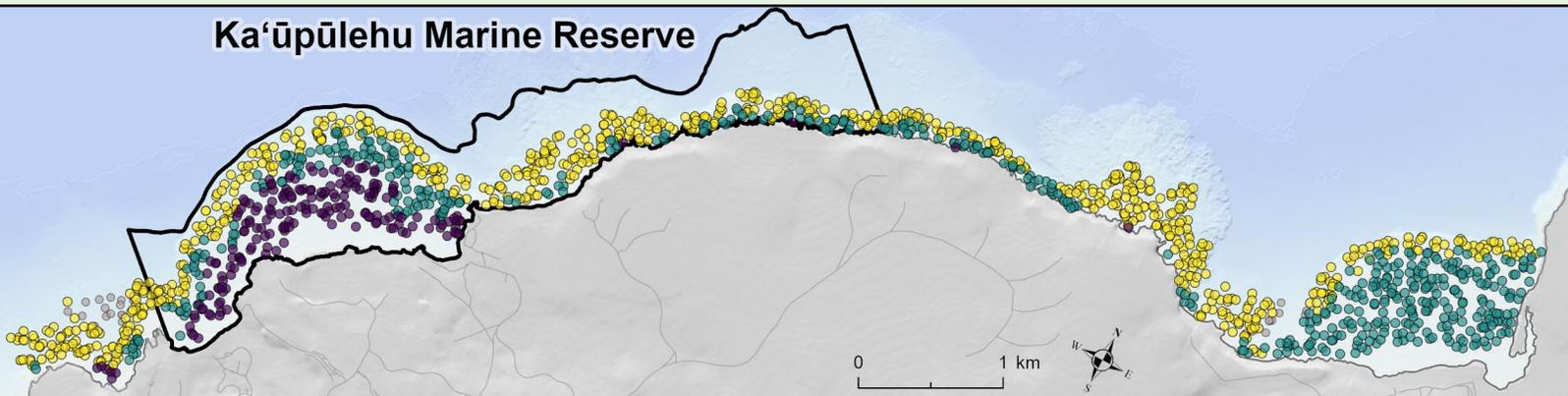
Co-produced results were based on 1622 underwater surveys



An innovative approach to co-production between community stewards, agency biologists, and academic and non-profit partners used 17 years of underwater reef surveys to understand patterns and trends of resource fish biomass (fisheries species of Ka'upulehu). 1497 underwater surveys have been conducted by TNC in Ka'upulehu since 2009, with 125 additional surveys by DAR in the North Kona moku outside the reserve between 2022-2024. Sample sizes are in timeline above and survey points are mapped below by habitat type.

Reefs across Ka'upulehu, Kūki'o, and adjacent areas include 3 major habitats, based on quantitative assessment of depth, complexity, and coral cover

Ka'upulehu Marine Reserve



Shallow Bench



Shallow Coral

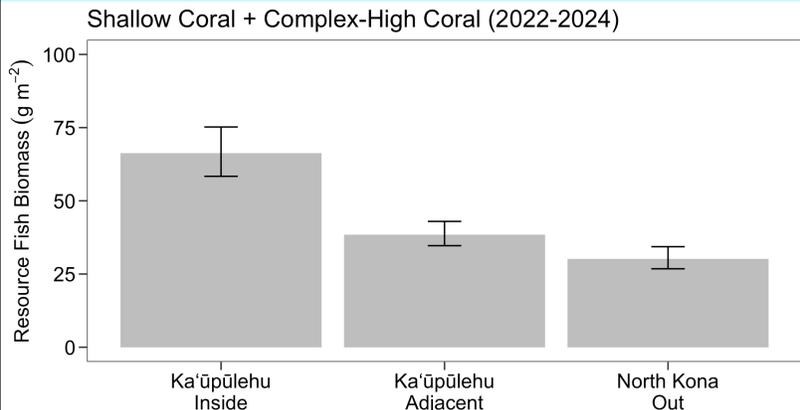
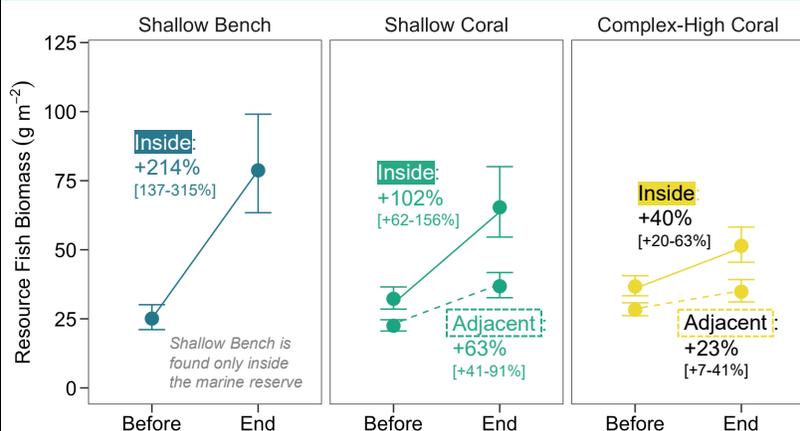


Complex-High Coral



Resource biomass increased inside and in adjacent areas for all 3 habitats. Change was greater inside for Shallow Coral

Recent resource biomass inside Ka'upulehu Marine Reserve is greater than surrounding reefs of North Kona



Resource fish biomass increased by 19 g m⁻² [80% CI: 6-34 g m⁻²] more inside the reserve than in adjacent areas for Shallow Coral. Values listed on the graph are estimated mean change in biomass (points) with 80% credible intervals (brackets and vertical lines).

Resource fish biomass inside the Ka'upulehu Marine Reserve is 118% higher [80% CI: 83-163%] than reefs across other areas of the North Kona moku, and 42% [80% CI: 31-51%] higher than reefs adjacent to the reserve of similar habitats. Vertical lines are 80% credible intervals.

Methods: Co-producing research

There are a number of open conversations around how data are incorporated in community-based management process in Hawai'i and elsewhere that include challenges such as how to create pathways for including multiple ways of knowing, and data sovereignty and sharing. Likewise, when, how, and who reports on the data and how this dynamic permeates management processes is unclear, as is who stands behind the conclusions, and how other groups perceive how conclusions were reached. To try and overcome these challenges, the following methods were employed to co-produce this research:

Build trust

Community stewards, state agency, and NGO and academic partners came together in person over 10+ sessions, all data stayed in the room

Shared questions

Everyone's ideas were shared and heard, and common questions/goals were found

Transparent data quality evaluation

Shared understanding of data limitations, filters, and quality corrections were cogenerated and agreed upon

Co-develop data analysis & interpretation

Data were analyzed live in real time and discovery and interpretation was shared by all 4 groups

Methods: Underwater Surveys

SCUBA divers trained in scientific diving conducted transect-based surveys of reefs in Ka'ūpūlehu from 2009 to 2024 with TNC, and across the North Kona moku from 2022-2024 with DAR using similar methods. One or two divers observed all conspicuous reef fish species on a 25x5 meter belt transect and recorded the species and total length. Another diver followed the fish observer and took photos of the benthos at regular intervals along the transect that were later analyzed to quantify percent cover of coral and other benthic groups. All data were checked for quality and errors following established protocols by the Hawai'i Monitoring and Reporting Collaborative. These methods are standard and widely accepted methods used throughout Hawai'i and worldwide as a reliable methodology for assessing reef fish assemblages.



Methods: Choosing an indicator of management effectiveness

Resource fish biomass was identified as an appropriate metric for evaluating the effectiveness of the temporary closure of fishing in the reserve. Resource fish biomass is an estimate of the overall weight of fish per a given area that is comprised of species that are important to the fishery. Resource species were identified by comparing available sources of fisheries dependent data (e.g., creel surveys), with the greatest emphasis given to a creel survey conducted prior to the closure in 2013. In total, 77 species were included.

Methods: Identifying Habitat Types

Each of the 1494 underwater surveys across all years were assigned a value of depth, habitat complexity, and coral cover based on a dataset that is available for the entire West Hawai'i coastline from remotely sensed data and other sources (see Donovan et al. 2023 *Proc B*). All three metrics were considered together in a statistical model (model-based multivariate clustering) that identifies groupings in the data. This method revealed 4 distinct habitat types, with one being relatively less frequent. Subsequent analyses focused on the 3 more dominant habitat types that were named based on their dominant features:

Shallow Bench: shallow (5-18 ft), lower coral cover (26-42%), mid complexity

Shallow Coral: shallow (5-20 ft), moderate coral cover (33-44%), mid complexity

Complex High Coral: all depths (5-65 ft), high coral cover (35-65%), very high complexity

Methods: Evaluating effectiveness of temporary fisheries closure

A 'Before-After-Control-Impact' analysis framework was applied that follows best practice for conservation impact assessment. Data from 2012-2015 was categorized as 'Before' and data from 2022-2024 was categorized as 'End' and was used analogous as 'After' in the impact assessment methodology. The 'Impact' was the temporary closure of the fishery so included the data from inside the reserve, and the 'Control' was the data adjacent to the reserve where it is assumed the adjacent area was subject to the same environmental variation as the reserve. The assessment was conducted as a Bayesian Gamma linear model with resource fish biomass as a response variable and the predictors before-after, control-impact, and their interaction. Flat priors were used and models were run with 3 chains and 4,500 post-warmup samples of the posterior distribution. All models were checked for convergence and assumptions, including posterior predictive checks. Posterior distributions were summarized for plotting with non overlapping 80% intervals used to evaluate evidence for an effect. Relative percent change in biomass between the reserve and adjacent areas were calculated across the entire posterior and then summarized to find the mean and 80% credible interval.

Methods: Comparing recent biomass to adjacent areas

To evaluate how resource fish biomass at the end of the temporary closure compared to the broader North Kona moku, additional surveys conducted by DAR using similar methods were included. Depth, habitat complexity, and coral cover from the remotely sensed data sources were attributed to the DAR survey sites and the habitat type was predicted from the earlier habitat clustering model. Data were then subset to include similar habitats found both inside and outside the reserve. A Bayesian Gamma linear model with resource fish biomass as a response variable and a predictor with three levels: inside the reserve, adjacent areas, and surveys from the remainder of North Kona. Model fitting and checking was the same as the impact assessment, and again non-overlapping 80% intervals of the posterior were used to evaluate evidence of higher biomass within the reserve.

[EXTERNAL] SUPPORT Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan

From Josephine Smith <smithjos@hawaii.edu>

Date Wed 2/25/2026 10:55 AM

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

I support advancing the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and associated fishing rules to a public hearing as part of the administrative rulemaking process. As an environmental professional, I recognize the importance of management approaches that are science-informed, place-based, and developed through meaningful community engagement. The Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o community, through Hui Kahuwai, has led an eight-year planning process grounded in kilo, long-term observation, and kuleana to mālama 'āina and kai, with extensive outreach to fishers, 'ohana, students, and the broader public.

Hui Kahuwai has worked collaboratively with the Division of Aquatic Resources to refine the plan through multiple revisions, integrating community fishing knowledge with contemporary management needs while safeguarding the gains achieved during the 10-year Try Wait rest period. This co-management framework reflects best practices in adaptive, enforceable resource management and provides a responsible pathway for sustainable, subsistence-based fishing.

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

Jody Smith, MS Natural Resources & Environmental Management

East Honolulu 96825



*He Lawai'a no ke kai papa'u, he pōkole ke aho; He Lawai'a no ke kai hohonu
he loa ke aho" "A fisherman of shallow seas uses a short line; a fisherman
of the deep sea uses a long line."*

KALANIHALE

February 25, 2026

RE: Support for BLNR Agenda item F3

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

My name is Kaimi Kaupiko 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.

I support this plan not only as a community leader, but as a lifelong 'ike kai person who comes from Miloli'i—one of Hawai'i's last fishing villages—where our families have depended on healthy nearshore and offshore resources for generations. I understand what it means when management is done with kuleana and patience, and I recognize the value of a place-based rest period like **"Try Wait"**—not as a theory, but as a practice our fishing communities know well: you let areas recover, you observe change over time, and you act before the resource collapses. **Try Wait demonstrated that when a community takes responsibility, allows the reef to rest, and commits to enforcement and education, the ocean responds—fish return, size structure improves, and the ecosystem starts to heal.**

As someone who fishes and feeds family—and who works to protect subsistence and cultural practice—I strongly believe we need pathways that keep fishing sustainable, enforceable, and rooted in community stewardship. **Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o have shown what it looks like to pair traditional kilo and generational knowledge with monitoring, outreach, and shared accountability.** This plan represents a model we need across Hawai'i: communities stepping forward with clear rules, education, and co-management so that our keiki and mo'opuna can continue the practices that make us who we are.

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 the 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, and 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

89-1831 Milolii Road
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Phone: (808)937-1310
Fax: (866)265-6376

kalanihale@gmail.com
www.kalanihale.com



*He Lawai'a no ke kai papa'u, he pōkole ke aho; He Lawai'a no ke kai hohonu
he loa ke aho" "A fisherman of shallow seas uses a short line; a fisherman
of the deep sea uses a long line."*

KALANIHALE

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.

Hau'oli Kamana'o,

Kaimi Kaupiko
Director, Kalanihale

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

From Nanea Lo <naneaclo@gmail.com>

Date Wed 2/25/2026 11:35 AM

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

Hello Chair Kanaka'ole and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Nanea Lo 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.

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; engaging in robust public scoping; distributing online surveys; attending and presenting at outreach events; and learning and sharing their insights at scientific conferences. They have engaged over 6,000 people through outreach events, over 1,700 students through educational programs, and over 600,000 interactions through social media.

Hui Kahuwai has worked collaboratively with the Division of Aquatic Resources to refine the proposed Fisheries Management Plan, so that 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, and 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.

me ke aloha 'āina,

--

Nanea Lo (*she/they/o ia*) | Micro-influencer

Board Member | [Hawai'i Workers Center](#)

Board Member | [Circular Fashion Hawai'i](#)

Granter | [Hawai'i People's Fund](#)

Pod | [Naughty + Native](#)

(808)444-1229

[LinkedIn](#)

"*'A'ole 'ulu i loa'a i ka pōkole o ka lou*" - 'Ōlelo No'eau

No breadfruit can be reached when the picking stick is too short.

There can be no success without preparation.

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

From Pete Wilson <perhansahi@gmail.com>

Date Wed 2/25/2026 11:37 AM

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

Aloha Chair Kanaka'ole and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Peter Wilson 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.

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; engaging in robust public scoping; distributing online surveys; attending and presenting at outreach events; and learning and sharing their insights at scientific conferences. They have engaged over 6,000 people through outreach events, over 1,700 students through educational programs, and over 600,000 interactions through social media.

Hui Kahuwai has worked collaboratively with the Division of Aquatic Resources to refine the proposed Fisheries Management Plan, so that 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, and 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.

Sincerely,
Peter Wilson

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Pete Wilson
13-927 Kahukai Street
Pahoa HI 96778
808-557-8108

TESTIMONY for KA'UPULEHU FISHERY MANAGEMENT AREA WITH AMENDMENTS

Regarding Ka'upulehu Fishery Management Area (HAR Chapter 13-60.12)

Aloha Chair and Members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the Ka'upulehu Fishery Management Area rules.

As a fisherman I support sustainability and long-term access to Hawai'i's marine resources. Fishing families depend on healthy reefs and productive waters for food security, cultural continuity, and economic survival. My request is not to weaken conservation protections, but to ensure equitable implementation that protects working fishing families and ensures adaptive, data-driven management.

As currently structured, the rule introduces significant spatial restrictions, permitting requirements, and reporting obligations. If conservation goals are to be durable and broadly supported, implementation must be proportionate, transparent, and responsive to both ecological and socioeconomic realities. This is a continued broken promise to the common fisher and families and the communities to even present this in the current form back to the public.

1. Request for Formal Boundary Review of the Wai a Kāne cultural site No-Take Zone

We respectfully request a **formal boundary review of the Wai a Kāne cultural site** to evaluate whether the current footprint represents the least restrictive alternative necessary to achieve documented conservation objectives.



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Village buyouts ensure exclusive venues and prime guest room locations for events.

DISCOVER

Image of the Wai a Kane area adjacent to the boundary, Kona Village Resort.

Specifically, we ask:

- What biological data supports the exact placement and scale of the current boundary?
- Was comparative habitat analysis conducted to determine whether a smaller core sanctuary area could achieve similar ecological outcomes?
- What measurable performance indicators will be used to assess success?

We propose **consideration of a scaled core sanctuary area, combined with adjacent seasonal or gear-restricted management**. This adaptive approach may provide equivalent conservation benefit while reducing disproportionate impact on historically utilized fishing grounds. Whereas there is still immense commercial activity occurring there from snorkel tours, canoe sailing, and beachfront cabanas.

2. Equitable Impact Monitoring Across All User Groups

We support comprehensive resource protection. However, if extractive users are subject to reporting requirements, check-in systems, and spatial restrictions, we respectfully request that non-consumptive water entry also be monitored and publicly reported to ensure cumulative ecological impact is equitably assessed across all user groups. In a recent study by Madin et. al (2025) of the impact of tourism, they found that the reefs returned to health and resilience not previously seen, showcasing the non-consumptive impact. Further studies have found similar findings including Lin et. al (2023). Further, a study by DAR with Arizona State University found that fish completely shifted their behavior when tourism was removed, ***“this research effort demonstrated that human presence does significantly alter the community structure of the Molokini MLCD.”*** These studies point to what fishers have been stating, that non-consumptive impact is real and requires equitable monitoring and tracking for the public good of the resource.

Reef ecosystems **experience pressure from multiple sources**, including:

- Recreational snorkeling and diving,
- Commercial tour operations,
- Anchoring and mooring activity,
- Sediment disturbance and trampling.

If fishers are required to document extractive impact, then visitor intensity and non-consumptive use should also be measured to create a complete picture of cumulative reef pressure.

We are not requesting punitive measures against recreational users. We are requesting data transparency and equitable ecological accounting. Sustainable management must evaluate total impact, not selectively focus on one user group.

3. Commitment to Adaptive, Data-Driven Management

We urge the Department to incorporate:

- Clear biological benchmarks tied to closure effectiveness,
- Periodic review intervals with opportunity for adjustment,
- Public reporting of both extractive and non-extractive activity levels,
- Meaningful fisher representation in ongoing evaluation.

Fishing families are not opposed to conservation. We are asking that implementation be fair, proportional, and grounded in transparent data. The fishing community was asked to wait 10 years to access their resources. Though commercial activity has continued. The process for data collection, review, and reports have been non-transparent and the community has been hurt by such efforts. And this will continue to hurt and limit access by making it so restrictive we common fishers will be forced to go elsewhere, in turn creating inequitable access and keeping us away.

Hawai'i's Constitution enshrines the Law of the Splintered Paddle, a reminder that power must be exercised with restraint and compassion. As regulatory authority grows and management structures become more formalized, we ask that this principle guide implementation.

Conservation should not come at the expense of working families who lack the institutional resources of larger interests. Sustainability and justice must move together. As we move forward into a new era of governance, the needs of the community, the resource and collective whole must be considered.

Long-term stewardship depends on trust. Trust grows when rules are demonstrably evidence-based and equitably applied.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Alex Min

From the Fishers Collective

Reference:

Madin, E.M.P., Suan, A., Severino, S.J.L. et al. COVID-19 anthropause affects coral reef ecosystems through biophysical changes. *npj Ocean Sustain* 4, 48 (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s44183-025-00144-3>

Lin, B., Zeng, Y., Asner, G.P. et al. Coral reefs and coastal tourism in Hawaii. *Nat Sustain* 6, 254–258 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-022-01021-4>

DAR. 4/24/23 – Measuring the impacts of tourism on marine ecosystems

<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/measuring-the-impacts-of-tourism-on-marine-ecosystems/>

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

From Krista Johnson <lawaiapelu@gmail.com>
Date Wed 2/25/2026 11:48 AM
To DLNR.BLNR.Testimony <blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov>

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

My name is Krista Johnson, 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.

I am a 35-year resident of Nāpo‘opo‘o in South Kona and the founder of the Kealakekua Bay Community Action Plan. I am also a student and partner of Uncle Chuck Leslie, a lineal descendant of Nāpo‘opo‘o and a kūpuna lawai‘a.

We personally have witnessed years of oversfishing along the coastlines of West Hawai‘i and are actively working in our own community as well as in support of other communities to address this issue.

Our partners at Try Wait have worked tirelessly to protect their wahi and are now working to reopen it to fishing with standards of practice based in their own traditional ‘ike lawai‘a and ‘ike kūpuna.

The community of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o, through their community-based non-profit Hui Kahuwai, has thoughtfully engaged in an eight-year planning process rooted in kilo, mo‘okū‘auhau of place, and kuleana to mālama ‘āina and the kai which has also worked as a role model for our own work. 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 6,000 people through outreach events, over 1,700 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 that it reflects both the lived fishing knowledge of the community and contemporary management needs. The plan has been revised four times in response to feedback, strengthening its ability to be enforced effectively while safeguarding the gains achieved during the 10-year “Try Wait” rest period. This work builds on decades of observation, monitoring, and 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.

Mahalo,
Krista Johnson
Nāpo‘opo‘o, HI

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

From Rebekah Ohara <rebekah@akakaforests.org>

Date Wed 2/25/2026 12:34 PM

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

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

My name is Rebekah Ohara, President and CEO of the Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests (AFTF), and I write in strong support of the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan advancing to public hearing as part of the administrative rulemaking process (Agenda Item F3, February 27, 2026).

AFTF is a community-based nonprofit working primarily across Hawai'i Island, with programs and partnerships that extend to several islands in the pae 'āina. Among our core programs, we support the Kaiāulu Pu'uwa'awa'a Community-Based Subsistence Forest Area — making us close neighbors to Ka'ūpūlehu on the leeward slopes of Hualālai. Our work in community-centered natural resource stewardship, biocultural education, and forest-centered research is guided by the same values that have shaped Hui Kahuwai's approach to the kai: kilo, mo'okū'auhau, and kuleana to mālama 'āina. We have watched with deep respect and inspiration as the Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o community has carried forward this deliberate, eight-year process — one rooted not only in ecological need, but in the lived knowledge and relational responsibility of the people of this place.

The Try Wait rest period represents something rare and significant: a community that chose to sacrifice short-term access for long-term abundance, and then did the hard, sustained work of documenting, planning, and engaging broadly enough to bring that vision into formal governance. Hui Kahuwai has conducted over two years of robust outreach, engaged more than 6,000 people through community events, 1,700 students through educational programs, and refined their Fisheries Management Plan four times in response to community and agency feedback. This is what meaningful co-management looks like.

From our work in Pu'uwa'awa'a, we see the same threads at work in our forest as in the kai below. The Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan is a powerful example of what becomes possible when government agencies and communities come together, each bringing their own strengths, knowledge, and kuleana in service of the 'āina, the kai, and the people who depend on them. The gains of Try Wait are a testament to that collaboration, and the pathway Hui Kahuwai has forged honors both the ecological recovery underway and the people whose mo'okū'auhau is woven into this place.

We urge the Board to approve a public hearing for the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and associated administrative rules, and to affirm the community's readiness to move forward.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

President and Chief Executive Officer
Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests
Phone: (808) 895-6991
Email: rebekah@akakaforests.org
Web: <http://www.akakaforests.org>

Vibrant forest communities alive with the voices of Hawai'i from one generation to the next

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

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

My name is Benjamin F. Garfinkle 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 support comes from stewardship and deep love for the ocean. The kai is central to Hawai'i's wellbeing-culturally, environmentally, and for future generations. I respect the discipline and sacrifice reflected in the "Try Wait" rest period, and I believe we have a responsibility to protect the gains achieved during that time.

Moving this plan forward to a public hearing is an important step toward thoughtful, community-led management that honors place, supports long-term abundance of, and keeps Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o nearshore resources healthy for generations

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.

Mahalo nui loa for your time, consideration, and service to Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources

Benjamin F. Garfinkle
Waimea, Hawai'i

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

From Elizabeth Marrack <marrack4@hawaii.edu>

Date Wed 2/25/2026 1:18 PM

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

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

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

My name is Elizabeth Case Marrack 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 marine researcher and instructor, I have seen the positive impact that marine protected areas and reserves have on biodiversity and the number and size of fishes both within and outside of the protected areas. Continuing to protect the measurable increase of fishes within and outside of the reserve into the future will ensure sustainable use in this marine area.

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.

Elizabeth C Marrack, PhD

Adjunct Professor
University of Hawaii, Hilo
200 West Kawili
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

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

From Doug Perrine <perrine@hawaii.rr.com>
Date Wed 2/25/2026 1:34 PM
To DLNR.BLNR.Testimony <blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov>

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

My name is Douglas Perrine 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 resident of Kailua Kona and a frequent user of the marine resources along the Kona Coast for the last 30+ years, I am thrilled to see an effective community-driven coastal management program finally in place here, and deeply grateful to Hui Kahuwai and others who have participated in its design, implementation, and monitoring. Act 306, in 1998, mandated that 30% of the Kona coastline be designated as no-take marine reserves, yet, to my knowledge, the “Try Wait” initiative at Kaupulehu is the only one that has been successfully implemented.

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

Sincerely,
Douglas Perrine
76-223 Haoa St
Kailua Kona HI 96740
landline: 808-329-4523
perrine@hawaii.rr.com
douglasperrine@yahoo.com
www.dougperrine.com

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

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

My name is Kassidy Kulukulualani 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.

Aloha,

I am a 5th grade student at Kanu O Ka 'Āina. I support the Ka'ūpūlehu management plan and rules. I have been building connections with Kalaemanō and Grandma Lei because we have been going down to Kalaemanō for huaka'i since 3rd grade and we even camped there once. I have learned so much about the Try Wait Campaign and Ka'ūpūlehua mo'olelo. The rules will benefit our future generations and save the native species of the kai. If we follow these rules, our Kai and 'Aina will be clean and healthy. Grandma Lei told us a story on how Kalaemano was created. I think we all want the future little kids to see native fish and show our future kids and grandkids. Please help pass these rules to help Kalaemano, Mahalo.

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.

Mahalo nui loa

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

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

My name is Leah Sproat 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.

Aloha,

I am a 5th grade student from Kanu o ka 'Āina. I am in support of the Kaūpulehu Fisheries Management Plan. My knowledge of this 'āina started when I was in 3rd grade. I've visited this wahi pana or special place many times and even got to camp there with my class. In all of these times I have learned something different every single time. This just shows how much more there is to Kalaemanō and Kaūpulehu. This is why we need to pass these rules. It's not only for the next generation but for the 'āina itself. We have the chance to help our aina. The outcome of passing these rules would be the best decision to make. Us humans caused these problems, we WILL be the ones to fix it. Mahalo, Try wait.

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.

Mahalo nui loa,

Leah Sproat

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

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

My name is Kennidee Mock Chew 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.

Aloha,

I am a fifth grader at Kanu o ka 'Āina. I SUPPORT the Ka'upulehu Management Plan. I have a connection with beautiful Aunty Lei and Kalaemanō. Aunty Lei has always been there for me and my class, Papa Māmane. We have learned lots about Ka'ūpulehu like the story about Pele and Kamehameha's sacred Fish pond and his people protecting his Fish pond from a stranger that they never knew about but that stranger was actually Pele asking for fish because she was hungry. Me and my class were so shocked and surprised to hear the surprising story about Pele. If we mālama the path and opportunities Kalaemanō will always thrive. We Mahalo Aunty Lei for these opportunities and Kalaemano giving us a land we can love in our hearts.

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.

Mahalo nui loa!

Kennidee Mock Chew

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

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

My name is Jameson Hawes 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.

Aloha,

I am a fifth grader at Kanu O ka Aina. We recently took a field trip to camp at [Kalaimano](#). [We](#) had so much fun doing it. But the biggest message to me that Grama lei told us is that we have the power to change the [world](#). [So](#) I want to use that power to make a good choice. I am in favor to pass the law that they worked hard [for](#). [So](#) I hope that you take into consideration. The fish mean a lot to us and we don't want to waste take only what you need. There are not a lot native fish left so please have some respect for our kupuna. Mahalo nui loa.

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

Jameson Hawes

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

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

My name is Israel Lyman 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.

Aloha,

I am a 5th grader at Kanu o ka 'Āina. I am in support of the Try Wait Campaign because I have been there and seen firsthand just how special of a place it is. My class got to camp there and do diversity surveys of the native species that are still there. Another reason I am in support of the Campaign is Kalaemanō is a place where you won't always get to go to. Ka'ūpūlehu is a place where there are plenty of things to see there. We got to go to experience what this wahi pana or special place looked like after it was closed for fishing for ten years. Kalaemanō is a great place and it was fun and it was a good learning experience. Please support our community and pass these rules so we can all malama 'āina.

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 loa

Israel Lyman

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

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

My name is Aionalu Emmsley 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.

Aloha,

I am a 5th grader at Kanu o ka 'Āina. My name is Aionalu Emmsley. I support the Try Wait Campaign because the rules are necessary and you don't need to over fish. I think we all deserve to eat from the ocean but we need to do it responsibly. Let the native species get bigger and repopulate so we can enjoy it for many years to come. Please help support our community by passing these rules for us all to follow.

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 loa

Aionalu Emmsley

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

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

My name is Alena Lagaret 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.

Aloha,

I am a 5th grader at Kanu o ka 'Āina. I support the Try Wait rules and campaign because we should only be taking what we need and if we take more than what we need then there won't be any for the rest of our people. Also if we over fish then there won't be any left for generations to come. If we don't put back the native l'a then there will be bad fish and they can cause bad stuff to our ecosystems. Therefore our population of native l'a will be extinct and kids in the future won't be able to try our native l'a. Lastly, we should only be taking the invasives so the native fish can populate or just don't take any l'a. Now make sure you follow the rules set by Hui Kahuwai and Ka'ūpūlehu, and please mālama the'āina. Mahalo

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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Mahalo nui loa,

Alena Lagaret

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

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

My name is Makoa Spencer 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.

Aloha,

My name is Makoa Spencer. I am a 5th grader at Kanu o ka 'Āina. I have gone to Kalaemanō and Ka'ūpūlehu three times and loved it, and at times I learned that they were going to open it up to the public. The downside was people could take too much fish and other native species. So if you were to advance the rules it would be the best choice you can make for our entire community. Also, think about all the people that want to bring their kids to this wahi pana or special place. I don't think they want to bring their kid to a place with no fish, no opihi, no life, right? My last reason is if the rule does not pass, all the work these organizations have done for ten years will be for nothing.

Mahalo for reading my mana'o.

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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Mahalo nui,

Makoa Spencer

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

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

My name is Kūlia Purdy 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.

Aloha,

I am a 5th grader at Kanu o ka Āina. I'm in support of Try Wait because I want my ohana to see the native fish for generations to come. This is a way that we can help protect our natural resources. Another reason why I'm in support is that if we take too much then our next generation won't be able to experience what I have at the kai.

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 loa!!

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

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

My name is HaizelynnAcdal. 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.

Aloha,

My name is HaizelynnAcdal. Also i am a fifth grade student at Kanu o ka Aina. I'm in support of the Try Wait. Because the relationship that i have with the kai is pretty high. Not just because of that but also think ten plus years later about the kids in fifth grade will not just have no fish. But what experience will they have that we had in 5th grade and if they can't experience things that we did. You know sometimes you just have to Try and Wait you know. Mahalo Nui!

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 loa

Haizelynn Acdal

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

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

My name is Joseph Shockey 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.

Aloha,

I'm a 5th grader at Kanu o ka Aina. I'm in support of the Try Wait campaign because you should not take more fish than you need. In my opinion, rules are important and made to keep people, places and animals safe. So I believe that native animals should be protected no matter what. Therefore, I think that the Try Wait campaign is important.

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.

Mahalo nui loa

Joseph, Shockey

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

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

My name is J'aime Kawaiwainuinokealoha Sisson 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.

Aloha,

I am a fifth grader at Kanu o ka 'Āina and I support the Try Wait rules because i went to Kalaemanō and saw that there's so much stories and mana over there. I also support the rules because I want the future generation to catch fish over there and hear all the stories they share in the future. That is why you need to follow the rules and to pass the rules along.

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 loa

J'aime Kawaiwainuinokealoha Sisson

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

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

My name is Kaikua Kaaihili 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.

Aloha,

I am a 5th grader at Kanu o ka 'Āina. I support the Try Wait Campaign rules because I want other kids to experience this beautiful place, full of native species, and thriving. I also support Try Wait because back then the people overfished there were barely any fish left. We follow the rules and make sure we only take what we need. When we went to Ka'ūpūlehu and fished to see what species were there we were outside the boundary and did diversity surveys. Please pass these rules so others know how important our kuleana is to malama 'āina.

Try wait ah yessah

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.

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

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

My name is Hiram Akima 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.

Aloha,

I am a fifth grader at Kanu o ka Aina. and I am a fisherman since I was five years old. My class and I went to Kalaemano and we researched all about fish, ha'uke'uke, opihi, and much more. I learned a lot of things with Grama Lei, Auntie Malia and my kumus. Please listen and approve the rules.

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.

Mahalo nui loa .

Hiram Akima

[EXTERNAL] Subject: Strong Support for BLNR Agenda Item F3 – February 27, 2026

From Cindi <cgpunihao@gmail.com>

Date Wed 2/25/2026 2:26 PM

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

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

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and associated fishing rules moving forward to a public hearing as part of the administrative rulemaking process.

As a kama'āina of Kekaha Wai 'Ole o Nā Kona, these lands and waters have sustained my 'ohana for generations. The health of our nearshore fisheries is not an abstract policy issue to me — it is personal. It is about food security, cultural practice, and our kuleana to ensure that future generations can continue to fish, gather, and thrive.

The communities of Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o, through their community-based nonprofit Hui Kahuwai, have engaged in an intentional and deeply grounded eight-year planning process. Their work is rooted in kilo (careful observation), mo'okū'auhau of place, and a profound sense of kuleana to mālama 'āina and the kai.

Over two years of robust outreach have included consultation with 'ohana, fishers, and other stakeholders; public scoping meetings; online surveys; outreach events; and scientific conferences. They have engaged more than 6,000 people through community outreach, over 1,700 students through educational programs, and reached more than 600,000 people through social media engagement. This reflects a transparent and inclusive process.

Hui Kahuwai has worked collaboratively with the State to refine the proposed Fisheries Management Plan so that it reflects both the lived knowledge of local fishers and contemporary resource management needs. The plan has been revised four times in response to community and agency feedback, strengthening its enforceability while safeguarding the hard-earned gains achieved during the ten-year "Try Wait" rest period.

This effort builds on decades of observation, monitoring, and collaborative planning. It represents a thoughtful co-management approach designed to ensure that the recovery achieved during Try Wait is not lost, and that sustainable, subsistence-based fishing can responsibly resume in Ka'ūpūlehu and Kūki'o.

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

Mahalo for your consideration and for your commitment to stewarding Hawai'i's precious marine resources.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy

Kalaoa, North Kona, Hawai'i Island

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

From Jordan Ehlers <jordan.ehlers107@gmail.com>

Date Wed 2/25/2026 2:29 PM

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

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

My name is Jordan Ehlers 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.

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.

Jordan Ehlers

Thank you,
Jordan Ehlers

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

From Katherine Ehlers <katehlers10@gmail.com>

Date Wed 2/25/2026 2:32 PM

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

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

My name is Katherine Ehlers 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.

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

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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.

Katherine Ehlers

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

From Benton Kealii Pang <mokumanamana@gmail.com>
Date Wed 2/25/2026 2:53 PM
To DLNR.BLNR.Testimony <blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha Chair Kanaka'ole and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Kealii Pang, Ph.D., 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 support is rooted in a deep, personal connection to this place. My doctoral research focused on the uplands of Ka'ūpūlehu, Kona 'Ākau, which gave me the profound privilege of working alongside and learning from the kama'aina families of the area. Through this work, I gained a firsthand understanding of the deep, ancestral relationship these families have with this land and sea, and how essential the health of the entire watershed—from the forest to the ocean—is to the continuation of Hawaiian traditions and a subsistence way of life. I am intimately familiar with the area's resources and the community's generational kuleana to them.

Furthermore, I bring a professional perspective informed by 35 years as a federal biologist working in Hawaii conservation, with a specialty in our fragile dryland forests. This experience has taught me the critical importance of proactive, community-based management. The ten-year "Try Wait" period was a courageous act of stewardship by this community, and the ecological gains achieved are undeniable. As a community advocate, a member of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu, and a commissioner for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, I have seen both the potential and the necessity of co-management. This plan is the logical, responsible next step to ensure that the sacrifices made during "Try Wait" are not wasted, and that fishing can resume in a way that is both sustainable and honors traditional practices.

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; engaging in robust public scoping; distributing online surveys; attending and presenting at outreach events; and learning and sharing their insights at scientific conferences. They have engaged over 6,000 people through outreach events, over 1,700 students through educational programs, and over 600,000 interactions through social media.

Hui Kahuwai has worked collaboratively with the Division of Aquatic Resources to refine the proposed Fisheries Management Plan, so that 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, and 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.

Sincerely,
Kealii Pang, Ph.D.
3204 Carlos Long St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816
808-349-3636

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

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

My name is Tamatoa Bambridge. I am a recognized specialist on *rāhui* in French Polynesia, and a Research Director at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). 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.

I strongly appreciate and encourage the “Try Wait” initiative, as it resonates deeply with fisheries management approaches that we have re-implemented in French Polynesia over the past decade, through the *rāhui* system. *Rāhui* is a traditional, community-led tenure practice through which communities collectively decide to temporarily restrict access to marine areas in order to restore ecological abundance and renew cultural relationships with the lagoon.

Like “Try Wait”, *rāhui* is rooted in observation, intergenerational knowledge, and a collective responsibility to mālama the marine environment. These approaches recognize that ecological recovery is inseparable from cultural continuity, food security, and community governance. In French Polynesia, we have witnessed how temporary closures, when grounded in local leadership and customary authority, can strengthen both fish stocks and social cohesion.

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, engaging over 6,000 people through outreach events and 1,700 students through educational programs. The 10-year “Try Wait” rest period represents a rare and valuable ecological gain. Moving forward with administrative rulemaking is a necessary step to ensure that these gains are not eroded and that subsistence-based fishing can responsibly resume within a structured and enforceable framework.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Board to approve a public hearing for the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and its associated administrative rules.



Tamatoa Bambridge

Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Rāhui Center

www.rahuicenter.pf

Research Director, CRIOBE CNRS UAR3278, Moorea, French Polynesia

www.criobe.pf

Writer of *The Rāhui: Legal pluralism in Polynesian traditional management of resources and territories*. Anu Press, 2016, 9781925022919 (online). ([hal-01298590](https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-01298590))



[EXTERNAL] Support for BLNR Agenda item F3

From The Locavore Store <info@bigislandlocavorestore.com>

Date Wed 2/25/2026 3:16 PM

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

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

My name is Catarina Zaragoza 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 supporter of Try Wait and Hui Kahuwai, I believe that their goals and overall mission are aligned with the best interests and long-term health and vitality of this nearshore fishery. Their planning, community-based input and engagement, cultural reflection, and data collection speak to their dedication to preserving the integrity and resources of this space in the long-term, while also maintaining it's cultural legacy. Our water, this kai, is a gift to be stewarded, respected, and celebrated. It is my opinion the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan does exactly that.

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.

Me ka oia'i'o,

--

Catarina Zaragoza

Co-Owner & Curator



Catarina Zaragoza & Arthur Dodge | Proprietors

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808-965-2372

333 Kīlauea Ave., #103 | Hilo, HI 96720

.....

M-F 9AM - 7PM

SAT-SUN 9AM - 6PM

Hökū Pihana
Conservation International |
Center for Oceans
1123 11th Avenue, Suite 401
Honolulu, HI 96816



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

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

My name is Hökū Pihana and as the Director of Indigenous Ocean Governance for Conservation International, I would like to share our support for the Ka‘ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan and associated fishing rules going to a public hearing as part of the administrative rule making process.

Conservation International strongly supports community-based monitoring efforts that are driven by the needs and interests of the people closely tied to their place. The efforts of the Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o communities and Hui Kahuwai closely align with our community work across that state, and we feel it important that the Board of Land and Natural Resources provides a space for communities to share their thoughts, concerns, and/or support for the proposed regulations. Approving a public hearing about this matter will enable the community to participate in the process, thus reflecting the value and importance of community inclusion in the development and implementation of the proposed regulations.

The community of Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o, through their community-based non-profit Hui Kahuwai, has thoughtfully engaged in a planning process rooted in kilo, mo‘okū‘auhau of place, and kuleana to mālama ‘āina and the kai. This work reflects a comprehensive co-management approach, and we believe 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.

Hökū Pihana

Hökūokahalelani Pihana
Director of Indigenous and Community-Based Ocean Governance
Conservation International

[EXTERNAL] BLNR 2/27 Meeting Agenda F3

From Alex Kanuha <akanuha@hotmail.com>

Date Wed 2/25/2026 4:01 PM

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

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

My name is Alex Kanuha, and I am a Kanaka from Moku O Keawe who cares deeply about protecting Native Hawaiian cultural rights and ensuring fair access to our natural resources for all local families, not just those with money and influence. I strongly oppose Agenda Item F3 — the proposed Ka‘ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Plan — and urge the Board to reject or substantially revise it before any further advancement.

This plan does not protect our resources in a pono way. Instead, it harms the constitutional rights of Native Hawaiians and local communities to engage in traditional and customary gathering practices. Article XII, Section 7 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution explicitly protects these rights, including the gathering of limu, ‘opihi, fish, and other marine resources for subsistence, cultural, and religious purposes. Yet this “management” plan, coming at the end of the 10-year “Try Wait” rest period, introduces new rules, restrictions, permits, zones, and limits that will make it harder — not easier — for Native Hawaiian practitioners and working-class local families to exercise those rights.

The plan was shaped heavily by wealthy landowners, resort interests, and business stakeholders in the Ka‘ūpūlehu and Kūki‘o area. These are the same affluent parties who already control large private estates and luxury developments along what should be public trust shoreline. Their version of “community-based management” looks more like gatekeeping: bureaucratic requirements, selective access rules, catch or gathering limits, and oversight structures that favor those with resources, connections, or commercial interests while burdening Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners and multigenerational local families who have gathered here for generations.

This is not true kuleana-based stewardship rooted in Hawaiian values. It is regulation dressed up as conservation that ultimately restricts access for the very people whose ancestors stewarded these waters through kapu systems long before any modern plan existed. While the rich build oceanfront homes and profit from tourism, Native Hawaiians and local residents are being pushed out of the very places we have always gathered to feed our ‘ohana and maintain our cultural practices.

The Board has a duty to uphold the public trust doctrine and constitutional protections for Native Hawaiian rights — not to rubber-stamp a plan that makes gathering harder for those without wealth or political pull. I ask you to reject this proposal in its current form. Send it back for genuine, inclusive consultation that centers unaffiliated Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, lineal descendants, and everyday local gatherers who are not tied to large landowners or commercial interests. Any plan that moves forward must expand, not restrict, access for traditional and customary practices.

Our reefs and shores belong to the people of Hawai‘i — especially to those who have cared for them since time immemorial — not to be regulated into exclusivity by the wealthy few.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify and for your kuleana to protect our cultural gathering rights.

Alex Kanuha

Moku O Keawe

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF:

Ka'ūpūlehu Fishing Management Plan
Board of Land and Natural Resources – February 27, 2026 Meeting
Agenda Item F3

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

My name is Claudia Kalaola and **I strongly Support** 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 myself, my son and my brother flew from our home in Hāna, Maui along with others from The Nature Conservancy to the Big Island. We had received a kāhea from Ka'ūpūlehu to show them the protocol we were using for 'opihi surveys. During the 3 days there it was apparent that members were committed to taking responsibility for the resources in Ka'ūpūlehu. We had a great sharing of 'ike and mana'o. The rest is history. All the steps taken from 2010 have been taken with deep commitment and with much thought and contemplation. They are fully aware of what they want and what they are willing to do to achieve their goals.

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.



Claudia Kalaola
P O Box 173, 146 Kauiki Street Hāna, HI 96713
wehi@kalaola.com (808) 269-2514