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tpl.org

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THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BLNR AGENDA ITEM C-3(1)d TO APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE LANDS AT DISTRICT OF HANA, ISLAND OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII

March 25, 2026

Re: Support for the State protection & purchase of East Maui Coastal Lands

Aloha Acting Chair Kanaka'ole & Members of the Board,

Trust for Public Land (TPL) strongly supports the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife's (DOFAW's) proposed acquisition and protection of five (5) parcels of land in East Maui totaling approximately 542 acres referred to in DOFAW's mission as the East Maui Coastal Forest project.

These five parcels are part of a [larger multi-phase project which would ultimately protect 1,000 or more acres with important connectivity to the state's existing Ko'olau Forest Reserve and other state-protected lands along the coastline of East Maui, including the Ha'iku, Nāhiku, and Hana regions, ultimately linking State protected and managed lands throughout the area from mauka to makai.

These parcels are part of a network of privately owned lands that absent DOFAW's efforts, would be listed for sale on the open market. The five parcels included in DOFAW's application include significant resources -- critical habitat for threatened and endangered species, important watershed, and cultural resources, including historic trails. DOFAW intends to manage these lands to protect these important resources and provide managed public access for cultural practice and recreation that has been cut off under current ownership and would continue to be off limits in the hands of new private owners.

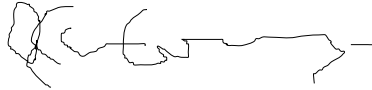
Trust for Public Land is national land conservation non-profit organization that is dedicated in protecting land for people. Since the late 1970s, Trust for Public Land has protected over 79,000 acres of 'āina (land) and over 56

special places in Hawai'i. We strongly support DOFAW's efforts to protect these culturally, historically, and naturally rich spaces.

Should you have any questions or concerns about this letter of support, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aka Wedemeyer', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Aka Wedemeyer, Project Manager
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