



March 25, 2026

HAWAII

1164 Bishop St., Ste. 1512
Honolulu, HI 96813
tpl.org

Sent Via Email: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

**State Of Hawai'i - Department of Land and Natural Resources
Board Of Land and Natural Resources**

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Re: Testimony in Support of BLNR March 27, 2026 Meeting **Item C.3.(1)b. Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i**, up to \$318,750 (full funding) for the acquisition of approximately 23.792 acres at District of Molokai, Island of Molokai (Malama Kaunakahakai), Tax Map Key Number (2) 5-3-005:006, with a conservation easement held by the County of Maui or other suitable entities.

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

About the Project: Trust for Public Land is partnering with Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i to place 23.8 acres of coastal land at the heart of Kaunakakai into community stewardship. The State Legacy Land Conservation Commission ranked the project number one at their January 16, 2026 meeting with the recommendation to grant the full funding request. Commissioners vetted the project through comprehensive application materials, a site visit, and a public meeting presentation by members of Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i.

Protection will transform the long-neglected "dustbowls" into a functioning coastal wetland and reactivate the area's cultural role as a historic canoe landing and gathering place. Wetland restoration will buffer against coastal flooding and sedimentation, improve reef health, and provide habitat for native species, while Hui Wa'a programs will reconnect the Moloka'i community to voyaging traditions deeply rooted in this place. See attached factsheet and map for more information.

We hope the board will recognize the value of this legacy land because:

Kaunakahakai is an old name for Kaunakakai, meaning "canoe landing" or "resting on the beach." Its calm protected waters and central location make this land the ideal home for Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i to reactivate the 'āina as it should be, a wa'a place and a resource for the community.

With their stewardship, this coastal wetland can be restored to support native biodiversity and provide critical natural infrastructure to buffer flooding and sedimentation. The lands could provide natural shelter for the endangered ae'o and alae ke'oke'o that are currently thriving just next door at the County of Maui wastewater treatment facility.

For a very low cost per acre for coastal land in Hawai'i, this project is a valuable investment of public funds that will deliver ecological restoration, cultural renewal, community access, and climate resilience.

Landowner Negotiations: There is real urgency to do this now. While the landowner has been supportive throughout this process, he has been clear that he is in a rush to sell. The property was actively listed until May, and it is unlikely that the seller will keep it off the market if funding is not secured in this round. Although the State land use designation is Conservation, the real estate listing explicitly advertised the potential to develop a private home. And while that would require land board approvals and permitting, it is not uncommon for offshore buyers to acquire coastal land on Moloka'i for private estates. Portions of this

parcel are protected by the Kaunakakai levee and sit above flood and sea-level-rise zones, making that scenario feasible.

That outcome would be a significant loss for the community. With funding approved by BLNR, we can instead secure coastal access, restore wetlands, create habitat, support cultural education, and return stewardship to the Moloka'i community. It is a rare opportunity, at a rare price, and we are unlikely to see again.

Funding: Matching funds are included in Mayor Richard Bissen's FY27 budget as an appropriation from the Maui Open Space Program. See attached letters of support from County of Maui Managing Director Josiah Nishita and Council Member Keani Rawlins Fernandez.

Community Support: Please see the enclosed 13 Letters of Support from a wide range of nonprofit organizations, government agencies, businesses, elected officials, and community members.

1. State Senator Lynn DeCoite
2. State Representative Mahina Poepoe
3. Maui County Managing Director Josiah Nishita
4. Maui County Council Member Keani Rawlins Fernandez
5. Donna Haytko-Paoa
6. 'Ohana Dudoit
7. 'Ohana Wa'a, Penny Martin, Chair and Pā'anaakalā Baybayan Tanaka, Co-Chair
8. Kauluakalana, Bert Kaleo Wong, Executive Director
9. Moloka'i Heritage Land Trust, Zhantell Lindo, CEO
10. Molokai Land Trust, William "Butch" Haase, Executive Director
11. UH Maui College, Molokai Education Center, Kelley Dudoit, Coordinator/Assistant Professor
12. Wa'akapaemua Canoe Club, Tiana K. Miguel, President
13. Gandharva Mahina Hou Ross

About Trust for Public Land: Trust for Public Land ("TPL") is a non-profit land conservation organization, and our mission is to protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. For 50 years, we've worked to protect over 79,000 acres and 56 special places across Hawai'i. Our Aloha 'Āina Program protects lands that perpetuate Hawaiian culture and returns these lands to Native Hawaiian organizations for community and cultural stewardship. Our Sustainable Hawai'i Program conserves lands that support local food production, our forests and their native species, and clean water sources with the goal of improving Hawai'i's self-sufficiency and food security.

We are now humbly asking the Board of Land and Natural Resources to approve the Legacy Land Conservation Commission recommendation to protect and acquire these lands at Mālama Kaunakahakai with the goal of returning this precious 'āina to community-led cultural stewardship for generations to come.

Mahalo nui loa,



Alyse Takayesu Parker
Maui Project Manager
Trust for Public Land



TRUST FOR
PUBLIC
LAND®



Mālama Kaunakahakai

Trust for Public Land is partnering with Hui Wa‘a o Moloka‘i to place 23.8 acres of coastal land at the heart of Kaunakahakai into community stewardship. Protection will transform the long-neglected “dustbowls” into a functioning coastal wetland and reactivate the area’s cultural role as a historic canoe landing and gathering place. Wetland restoration will buffer against coastal flooding and sedimentation, improve reef health, and provide habitat for native species, while Hui Wa‘a programs will reconnect the Moloka‘i community to voyaging traditions deeply rooted in this place.

Reactivating a Cultural Landscape

Mālama Kaunakahakai offers an opportunity to reactivate a storied cultural landscape. Long held in private hands, these coastal lands have remained inaccessible to the community despite their place within a significant cultural corridor that includes the nearby Mālama Platform—the beloved summer retreat of Kamehameha V, Lot Kapuāiwa—and the Mahinahina Heiau. Historically, this shoreline functioned as a canoe landing, rich in wa‘a activity, reflected in its old name Kaunakahakai, meaning “resting on the beach” or “canoe landing.” Through community stewardship led by Hui Wa‘a o Moloka‘i, this project will reestablish the area as a vibrant hub for wa‘a practice, cultural education, and mālama ‘āina (care for the land).



Perpetuating Wa'a Legacy on Moloka'i

Mālama Kaunakahakai represents a transformative opportunity to realize a long-held dream of the Moloka'i voyaging community. Its reef-protected waters and central location make it an ideal home for Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i—a place where young navigators can learn under the same stars, winds, and tides of their kupuna and ancestors. Integral to this vision is the chance to steward the cultural and ecological resources of this 'āina, honoring the deep interconnection between mālama 'āina and traditional voyaging.

"It's not just, 'go sail one time' — it's a lifetime commitment. If we're fortunate enough to be a part of these experiences, our responsibility is to take those lessons learned and share them and make sure they are continued. And the message that Hōkūle'a carries is 'Aloha 'Āina.'"

-Aunty Penny Martin, Hui Wa'a Member

A Critical Coastal Buffer

Located at the mouth of the Kaunakakai watershed, this 'āina is currently a badly degraded wetland. Through community stewardship, its abundance and vital ecological functions can be restored to absorb storm flows, filter runoff, and reduce sediment before it reaches Moloka'i's fringing reef.

Wetland restoration will provide ideal habitat for native birds, including the endangered 'ae'o, 'alae ke'oke'o, and koloa maoli. Reestablishing native vegetation will stabilize soils, improve infiltration, and renew the function of these lands to shelter native species and buffer coastal hazards for the Moloka'i community.

Conservation Funding Plan

- \$318,750 State Legacy Land Conservation Program (*recommended, project ranked #1*)
- \$106,250 County of Maui (*pending*)
- TPL is also seeking private funding to support project and program-related expenses.

About Trust for Public Land

Since 1979, Trust for Public Land has conserved over 78,000 acres throughout Hawai'i. Through our land protection efforts we partner with local communities to safeguard the lands and resources that are special to them.



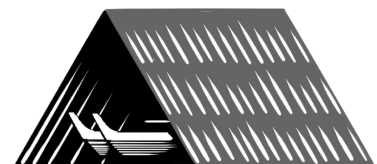
Connecting everyone to the outdoors™
tpl.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Alyse Takayesu Parker
Project Manager
(808) 269-0449
alyse.parker@tpl.org

PHOTO CREDITS:
MATT YAMASHITA

CONSERVATION PARTNER:



Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i

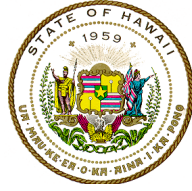


Mālama Kaunakahakai

ISLAND OF MOLOKA'I HAWAII'

October 10, 2025. Copyright © Trust for Public Land. Trust for Public Land and Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only. www.tpl.org





The Senate
Ka 'Aha Kenekoa

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

December 30, 2025

VIA EMAIL: lohiaopaoa@yahoo.com
Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i

VIA EMAIL: alyse.parker@tpl.org
Trust for Public Land
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1512
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Support for the Protection and Purchase of Lands at Kaunakakai, Moloka'i

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support of the Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i and Trust for Public Land's effort to purchase and protect lands at Kaunakakai (23.8 acres, TMK (2) 5-3-005-006, in the ahupua'a of Kaunakakai, moku of Kona, on the island of Moloka'i).

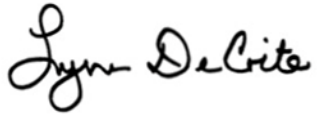
As the State Senator for District 7, which includes Hāna, East and Upcountry Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Molokini, and Kaho'olawe, I recognize the importance of protecting this shoreline land. It offers a rare opportunity for Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i to care for canoes, practice traditional navigation, and teach the next generation of voyagers. Today, erosion, invasive plants, off-road driving, and private ownership threaten the area. With proper restoration, the 'āina can absorb runoff, protect the reef, support native birds, and serve as a natural buffer against sea-level rise.

Kaunakakai has long been a center for fishing, canoe landings, and community gathering. Protecting this 'āina under Moloka'i stewardship will restore native habitats, preserve wa'a traditions, and ensure future generations can carry on the Moloka'i voyaging legacy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at (808) 587-7225 or via email at sendecoite@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Respectfully with aloha,

December 30, 2025
Page 2 of 2

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn DeCoite". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "D".

Lynn DeCoite
State Senator
Seventh Senatorial District



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāina

STATE OF HAWAII

STATE CAPITOL

415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

December 10, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission

Legacy Land Conservation Program

Department of Land and Natural Resources

Kalanimoku Building

1151 Punchbowl Street

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Letter of Support for Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i Acquisition of Coastal Property in Kaunakakai, Molokai.

Aloha Commissioners,

As the State Representative for District 13, which includes Molokai, I write in **strong support of Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i** and the Trust for Public Land in their effort to acquire and protect 23.8 acres of ʻāina in Kaunakakai, Molokai (TMK (2) 5-3-005-006).

This property faces immediate and long-standing threats—including unwanted development, unregulated off-road vehicle use, illegal dumping, sea-level rise and erosion, invasive species, and the loss of access to the shoreline. Without action, this ʻāina remains vulnerable to land uses that undermine conservation goals, cultural practices, and the long-term resilience of Molokai's coastline and community.

At the same time, this acquisition offers a uniquely significant opportunity to rehabilitate degraded and misused ʻāina, protect vital ecological and cultural resources, all while empowering community-led stewardship. The property contains native bird habitat, a historically perennial stream, and native plant species such as aweoweo, kipukai, and akulikuli. Its south shore location within Molokai's population center—immediately adjacent to the canoe club and Mālama Cultural Park—make it exceptionally well suited to support cultural, environmental, and community uses, including voyaging education.

Molokai currently has no permanent home for traditional voyaging education, despite its deep cultural significance. Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i has the expertise, community trust, and demonstrated

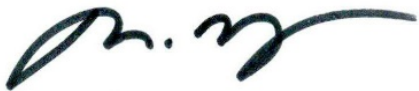
Representative Mahina Poepoe
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 331
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 586-6790 reppoepoe@capitol.hawaii.gov

commitment to fill this gap, but the lack of a stable land base severely limits their ability to serve local youth, families, and ‘āina. Acquiring this parcel will allow Hui Wa‘a to establish a permanent home—supporting youth leadership, strengthening cultural identity, and cultivating the next generation of environmental stewards.

With Hui Wa‘a’s guidance and stewardship, residents will regain access to the shoreline, have opportunities to participate in restoration, and build meaningful relationships with ‘āina and each other. This transition offers a path toward healing environmental damage while creating a shared resource and renewed sense of place that will benefit Molokai for generations.

I strongly urge the Commission to support this acquisition as both a protective measure against ongoing threats and a transformative opportunity for culture, community, and the environment.

With aloha,



Rep. Mahina Poepoe

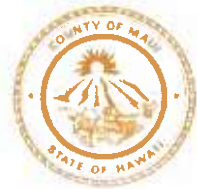
Hawai‘i State House of Representatives, District 13

Portion of Kahului, Pā‘ia, Ha‘ikū, East Maui, Molokai, Lāna‘i, Kaho‘olawe, Molokini

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

ERIN A. WADE
Deputy Managing Director



DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

December 16, 2025

LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
ATTN: DAVID PENN, PROGRAM SPECIALIST
david.penn@hawaii.gov

Dear Mr. Penn,

SUBJECT: MĀLAMA KAUNAKAKAI HUI WA'A APPLICATION
TMKs: (2) 5-3-005:006

The County of Maui acknowledges the Trust for Public Land and Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i application to the State Legacy Lands Conservation Fund to purchase one parcel totaling approximately 23.8 acres located on the Kaunakakai Shoreline, Kona, Molokai, County of Maui, State of Hawai'i, Tax Map Key (2) 5-3-005:006 ("Property").

The County of Maui is willing to accept the conveyance of the conservation easement and allocate up to 25% of matching funds from the fiscal year 2027 Open Space Fund, contingent on council approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Nishita".

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

cc: Trust for Public Land, Alyse Parker

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

December 30, 2025

VIA EMAIL: lohiaopaoa@yahoo.com
Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i

VIA EMAIL: alyse.parker@tpl.org
Trust for Public Land
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1512
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE PROTECTION AND PURCHASE OF
LANDS AT KAUNAKAKAI, MOLOKAI**

Aloha kākou,

Mahalo for this opportunity to express my strong support for the Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i and Trust for Public Land's effort to purchase and protect lands at Kaunakakai (23.8 acres, TMK(2) 5-3-005-006,) in the ahupua'a of Kaunakakai, moku of Kona, on the island of Moloka'i.

I recognize the importance of this initiative as a meaningful investment in cultural preservation, community well-being, and educational enrichment for the people of Molokai, Hawai'i, and our 'ohana across the hōnua.

It is my understanding that the land being considered for acquisition was once an area for salt beds to make pa'akai. After industrialization, the area was reduced to a silt disposal site for material dredged to deepen Kaunakakai Harbor. The sedimentation in the area is so significant now that when flying over you can immediately see the runoff smothering and killing our reef.

All that we touch, we change; all that we change, changes us. After decades of disregard and neglect, this is an opportunity for our people to heal as we heal this 'āina and safeguard this living landscape where culture is practiced, not merely remembered. Its calm, shallow waters and flat terrain make it an ideal

home for Hui Wa‘a o Moloka‘i to care for canoes, practice navigation, and teach the next generation of Moloka‘i voyagers.

I respectfully ask that you to give full and favorable consideration to Hui Wa‘a o Molokai’s application. Their work is essential to the cultural vitality and future resilience of Molokai, and it deserves our collective support. As the Molokai Councilmember on the Maui County Council, I am committed to supporting the necessary County funding to move this forward.

Mahalo nui for your dedication to preserving the lands and legacy of Hawai‘i.

Na‘u no,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keani Rawlins-Fernandez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, J.D., M.B.A.
Councilmember

January 4, 2026

VIA EMAIL: lohiaopaoa@yahoo.com
Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i

VIA EMAIL: alyse.parker@tpl.org
Trust for Public Land

Re: Support for the protection and purchase of lands at Kaunakakai, Moloka'i

To Whom it May Concern,

As a member of Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i, I wholeheartedly support this proposal to purchase and protect lands at Kaunakakai, Molokai (23.8 acres, TMK(2) 5-3-005-006).

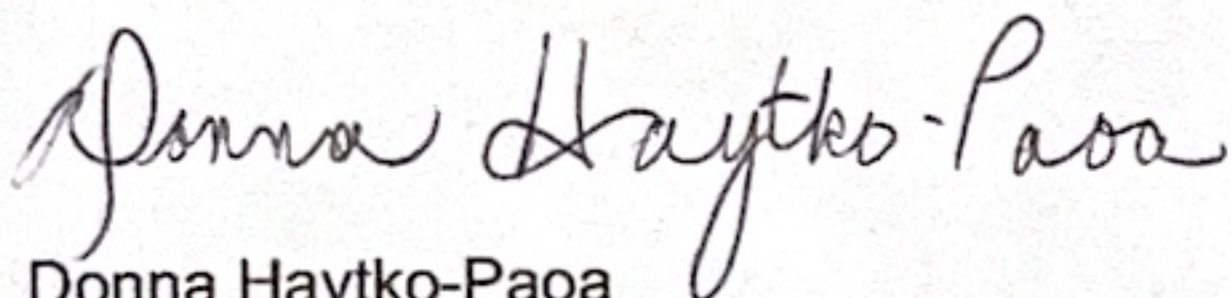
I would like to focus this testimony on how the property can serve to fulfill the long-held dream of having a home for Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i to care for canoes, practice navigation, and teach the next generation of Moloka'i voyagers.

I am the wife of Moloka'i s Hokule'a Captain, the late Mel Paoa Jr. and I'd like to share a personal story. Mel travelled around the world on Hokule'a for almost 40 years. Upon returning from each voyage, it would take Mel some time to adjust to life without his canoe 'ohana. When asked, he said, "I have no one here to talk about it with. No one with the same experience that I had. No one who knows." He was always looking for Moloka'i residents to sail and many were able to participate on interisland sails. However, when it came to most long ocean voyages, Mel was routinely the only Moloka'i resident chosen. It was only on his final voyage to Aotearoa in 2014 that Mel finally had two other Moloka'i residents on his leg.

It was Mel's dream to build a legacy of Moloka'i voyagers. Simply put, we have small sailing canoes, we have youth and adult canoe paddlers, we have current Hokule'a Captain to do the training, and we have close connections to the entire 'Ohana Wa'a statewide organizations. What we don't have is a home from which to practice and perpetuate wa'a culture. This site can be that home.

As a 50-year resident of Moloka'i, I also believe this effort is both necessary and long overdue. Preserving a large oceanfront parcel in perpetuity for stewardship, conversation, and public use would be a monumental benefit to Moloka'i and its people. Currently, the area faces threats from erosion, invasive species, and off-road vehicle damage in the "dustbowl." With proper care and restoration, the 'āina can better absorb runoff, protect the reef, support native birds, and serve as a natural buffer against sea level rise.

Please strongly consider approval. Mahalo.



Donna Haytko-Paoa
2778 Kamehameha V Hwy
Kaunakakai, HI. 96748
donnapaoa@gmail.com

January 5, 2026

VIA EMAIL: lohiaopaoa@yahoo.com
Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i

VIA EMAIL: alyse.parker@tpl.org
Trust for Public Land
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1512
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Support for the protection and purchase of lands at Kaunakakai, Moloka'i

To Whom It May Concern,

We are a Moloka'i paddling 'ohana who have helped build and coach canoe clubs on this island for generations. As adults, we helped found canoe clubs and supported youth paddling, but our connection goes back much further. We were raised in Kalama'ula Homesteads just west of this area and spent our childhood along this shoreline. From our home, we could once look across the beach and clearly see Kaunakakai wharf, something now hidden by mangrove overgrowth and years of neglect.

'Ohana Dudoit strongly supports Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i and the Trust for Public Land's effort to purchase and protect lands at Kaunakakai (23.8 acres, TMK(2) 5-3-005-006), in the ahupua'a of Kaunakakai, moku of Kona, on the island of Moloka'i.

Today, the area many know as the "dust bowl" is impacted by erosion, off-road use, and invasive plants. Yet this same 'āina has always been a place of gathering, canoe landings, fishing, and teaching. With restoration and Moloka'i-based stewardship, it can once again protect our shoreline, support native ecosystems, and serve as a safe, culturally grounded space for our keiki and future generations.

Moloka'i needs a true home for a sailing canoe and a voyaging program rooted in our island and values. For decades, Moloka'i families have organized, hosted, and supported our larger vessels like Hōkūle'a, Hikianalia, and Mo'okiha. This work is not new to us; what is new is having Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i formally recognized to carry this legacy forward responsibly and under community leadership. It is an opportunity to sustain voyaging education, environmental restoration, and cultural stewardship in a way that is rooted, on Moloka'i, by Moloka'i.

If this land is lost to private use or development, we risk losing access, cultural practice, and a place deeply tied to our identity. We proudly stand in strong support.

Mahalo,
'Ohana Dudoit
(808) 646-0455

J Dudoit-Kahaloa
Tania Dudoit-Kahaloa



'OHANA WA'A

Ne'ena i nā lālā kahiki

2875 Wa'a Road

Līhue, HI 96766

December 10, 2025

Lohiaopaoa@yahoo.com

Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i

Alyse.parker@tpl.org

Trust for Public Land

1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1512

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Support for the protection and purchase of lands at Kaunakakai, Moloka'i

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the 'Ohana Wa'a, we are honored to submit this letter in strong support for the Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i and Trust for Public Land's effort to purchase and protect lands at Kaunakakai (23.8 acres, TMK(2) 5-3-005-006, in the ahupua'a of Kaunakakai, moku of Kona, on the island of Moloka'i. We acknowledge and have great respect for the vital work that Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i is engaged with along with the Trust for Public Land's; this purchase will support the health of 'āina as well as kaiāulu of Moloka'i now and for generations to come.

This shoreline land in Kaunakakai offers a rare opportunity to fulfill a long-held dream of the Moloka'i voyaging community. Its calm, shallow waters and flat terrain make it an ideal home for Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i to care for canoes, practice navigation, and teach the next generation of Moloka'i voyagers. Today, erosion, invasive plants, and off-road driving in the "dustbowl" threaten the land, along with the pressures of private ownership. With proper care and restoration, the 'āina can absorb runoff, protect the reef, support native birds, and serve as a natural buffer against sea-level rise.

This area has long been used for fishing, canoe landings, and gathering. The name Kaunakakai—meaning "resting on the beach"—reflects its historic role as a landing place and community hub. Protecting this 'āina under Moloka'i community stewardship will restore native habitat and ecological function, perpetuate wa'a traditions, and ensure that future generations can continue building the legacy of the Moloka'i voyaging community.


‘Ohana Wa‘a is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to work together towards the collective health and life of our Voyaging traditions. Examples of our work include offering support towards the needs within our network voyaging organizations to support their voyaging practices and communities, creation of media that record and preserve the voices, mele, and stories of our voyagers to be passed down in use for education, engaging in collective work to further the collective health of voyaging, and ‘Imi Na‘aauao crew training. We are composed of intergenerational indigenous leadership representatives of the voyaging canoes and organizations of Hawai‘i.

Our guiding philosophy, adopted from one of our family members, is: *He wa‘a he moku, he moku he wa‘a* (our island is the canoe, our canoe is our island). It speaks to the interdependent nature of our people, and teaches us that our actions on the canoe should be reflective of our actions on our island. As voyagers, we understand that our island is our canoe and the great work that Hui Wa‘a Moloka‘i intends to begin here will contribute to significantly improving the health of their ‘āina which in turn will positively impact the health of the island as a whole, the wa‘a. Many of the wa‘a that comprise the ‘Ohana Wa‘a have utilized Kauanakakai Wharf to dock their canoes and so this ‘āina has always been within view of our voyaging ‘ohana, although not all have visited it.

As we are a large voyaging ‘ohana comprised of canoes from different mokupuni, their are members within the Hui Wa‘a o Moloka‘i that are part of the intergenerational legacy and genealogy that have been born through Hōkūle‘a and the ‘Ohana Wa‘a. Penny Martin and Lohiao Paoa are greatly respected ‘Oiwī leaders within our voyaging community. The negative impact that could result if the Hui Wa‘a o Moloka‘i does not own the property could be the lack of erosion control and lack of conservation actions as well as loss of potential cultural practices that could have taken place there. The ‘Ohana Wa‘a will benefit from this property being stewarded by the community, Hui Wa‘a o Moloka‘i, through the continuation of voyaging traditions being actively passed on to future generations as well as the mālama ‘āina practices that will help to restore the waiwai of thies ‘āina.

Thousands of keiki, mākuā, and kūpuna will benefit from work that Hui Wa‘a o Moloka‘i hope to accomplish here thus ensuring that our voyaging legacies live on, *e mau ka ho‘okele*.

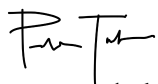
Na māua me ke aloha,



Penny Martin

Chair, ‘Ohana Wa‘a

naohanawaa@gmail.com



Pā‘anaakalā Baybayan Tanaka

Co-Chair, ‘Ohana Wa‘a

kala@huiowaa.org



KAULUAKALANA

Navigating Towards a Hopeful Future

Via Email: lohiaopaoa@yahoo.com
Hui Wa‘a o Moloka‘i

Via Email: alyse.parker@tpl.org
Trust for Public Land
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1512
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

Re: Kauluakalana’s Support for Community Protection of Kaunakakai Shoreline Lands

Aloha nui kākou,

Kauluakalana wholeheartedly supports the efforts of Hui Wa‘a o Moloka‘i and the Trust for Public Land to protect and return to community stewardship the 23.8 acres of shoreline in Kaunakakai (TMK (2) 5-3-005-006), in the ahupua‘a of Kaunakakai, moku of Kona, Moloka‘i.

As an ‘āina-based organization grounded in Kailua, O‘ahu, our work is guided by the understanding that ‘āina is living ancestors who feed us, teach us, and shape who we are as kānaka. Coastal places such as Kaunakakai are storied landscapes where generations have landed wa‘a, gathered mea‘ai, and learned the practices that anchor identity. To protect this ‘āina is to protect the ‘ike kupuna that flows through Moloka‘i’s voyaging community and through all of us who continue the traditions of our kūpuna holowa‘a.

At Kauluakalana, we have witnessed the profound healing that occurs when ‘āina is returned to the care of the people. Ma loko o Ulupō Nui a me Kūkanono, what were once degraded, forgotten spaces have become thriving wahi pana again. As the lo‘i fill with wai, as native birds return, as kalo pushes its first lau, our community is reminded that restoration is reciprocal when we mālama ‘āina, the ‘āina, in turn, mālama us. Keiki find their identity, kupuna reconnect to their stories, and families rediscover abundance and ‘ike inherited from generations before. These experiences affirm our deep belief that when ‘āina is held in the hands of the community, the blessings extend far beyond ecology - they restore people, pilina, and purpose.

We recognize the challenges currently facing the Kaunakakai shoreline: erosion, invasive species, unmanaged vehicular damage, and the vulnerabilities inherent in private ownership. If the land is not secured by Hui Wa‘a o Moloka‘i, there is a real risk of losing a rare and irreplaceable wahi where future community members of Moloka‘i can be trained in their own kai and in their own kūpuna. Such a loss would echo throughout Hawai‘i.

With community stewardship, however, this ‘āina can once again stand as a place of abundance and resilience. The restoration of Kaunakakai will protect nearshore



KAULUAKALANA

Navigating Towards a Hopeful Future

ecosystems, improve water quality, shelter native species, and act as a buffer against climate impacts. Equally important, it will ensure a permanent home for the wa‘a and for the ‘ike that sustains our seafaring heritage where the next generations of navigators can learn under the same wind, stars, and kupuna that guided their ancestors.

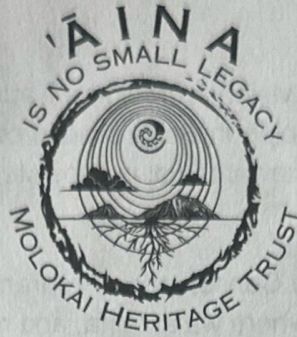
We envision this ‘āina as a living classroom, a refuge, and a cultural piko where voyaging traditions, community gathering, and ecological health rise together. We stand firmly with the Moloka‘i community and trust that Hui Wa‘a o Moloka‘i is the right steward to carry this kuleana forward.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your commitment to keeping this treasured ‘āina in the hands of the Moloka‘i people.

Me ka mahalo piha,

Bert K. Wong

Bert Kaleo Wong
Executive Director, Kauluakalana
kaleo@kauluakalana.org



Subject: Letter of Support for Hui Wa'a o Molokai's purchase of critical community lands in Kaunakakai town

Aloha mai kākou,

Molokai Heritage Trust is writing in strong support of Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i and their effort to acquire TMK: (2) 5-3-005:006 as a permanent home for wa'a on Moloka'i.

As the Molokai Heritage Trust, our kuleana is to help protect the places, stories, and practices that make Moloka'i what it is. This shoreline is one of those places. It sits at the center of Kaunakakai, along a coast long used for canoe landings, fishing, gathering, and community life. Many of our members, families, and partners have deep ties to this area and continue to use the surrounding shoreline for cultural practice today.

For years, Moloka'i has contributed navigators, crew, and leaders to voyaging efforts across Hawai'i and the Pacific, yet there has never been a dedicated home base for wa'a here on our own island. Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i is working to change that in a way that is grounded in 'ike kupuna, mālama 'āina, and community responsibility. Their mission—to empower youth and families through wa'a, 'āina, and kai—aligns directly with our own purpose to protect, preserve, and perpetuate Moloka'i's natural and cultural heritage.

From our perspective, this acquisition would mean:

- A stable, community-rooted place where Moloka'i's voyaging traditions can live and grow.
- Space for keiki, 'ōpio, and kūpuna to learn together on the land and sea, in view of the same shoreline and horizons their ancestors knew.
- Protection of one of the last open coastal areas in town from private development that could limit access and change the character of this shoreline.
- A chance to heal a landscape that is currently bare and degraded, and to restore it with native plants, cultural practice, and community care.

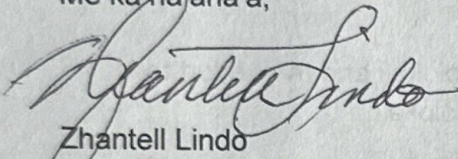
We see Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i as part of a larger network of community organizations on this island working toward the same goal: a Moloka'i where our people, our 'āina, and our culture can thrive together. Their leadership includes trusted community members, voyagers, cultural practitioners, and educators, and they have been in active conversation with neighbors, partners, and other voyaging 'ohana across the pae 'āina.

Molokai Heritage Trust supports their vision for Mālama Kaunakahakai and recognizes this as a timely and important opportunity. Keeping this shoreline in community hands, with a clear commitment to cultural practice and stewardship, is consistent with the values we hear from our community every day.

We respectfully urge the Legacy Land Conservation Program to support Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i's application and help secure a future where wa'a, 'āina, and community can continue to grow together at this place.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Me ka hāhā'a,



Zhantell Lindo
Chief Executive Officer
Molokai Heritage Trust



December 12, 2025

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William Haase

VIA EMAIL: alyse.parker@tpl.org
Trust for Public Land
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1512
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Support for the protection and purchase of lands at Kaunakakai, Moloka'i

To Whom it May Concern,

Molokai Land Trust strongly supports the Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i and Trust for Public Land's effort to purchase and protect lands at Kaunakakai (23.8 acres, TMK(2) 5-3-005-006, in the ahupua'a of Kaunakakai, moku of Kona, on the island of Moloka'i.

This shoreline land in Kaunakakai offers a rare opportunity to fulfill a long-held dream of the Moloka'i voyaging community. Its calm, shallow waters and flat terrain make it an ideal home for Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i to care for canoes, practice navigation, and teach the next generation of Moloka'i voyagers. Today, erosion, invasive plants, and off-road driving in the "dustbowl" threaten the land, along with the pressures of private ownership. With proper care and restoration, the 'āina can absorb runoff, protect the reef, support native birds, and serve as a natural buffer against sea-level rise.

This area has long been used for fishing, canoe landings, and gathering. The name Kaunakakai—meaning "resting on the beach"—reflects its historic role as a landing place and community hub. Protecting this 'āina under Moloka'i community stewardship will restore native habitat and ecological function, perpetuate wa'a traditions, and ensure that future generations can continue building the legacy of the Moloka'i voyaging community.

If you have any need to contact me, I can be reached at butch@molokailandtrust.org or by phone at (808) 366-6675.

Mahalo,

William "Butch" Haase
Executive Director, Molokai Land Trust



MAUI COLLEGE, MOLOKAI
A UNIVERSITY of HAWAII¹ EDUCATION CENTER

December 31, 2025

Trust for Public Land

1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1512
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Support for the protection and purchase of lands at Kaunakakai, Molokai

To Whom It May Concern,

I write in strong support of Hui Wa'a o Molokai and Trust for Public Land's effort to purchase and protect lands at Kaunakakai (23.8 acres, TMK(2) 5-3-005-006), located in the ahupua'a of Kaunakakai, moku of Kona, on the island of Molokai.

I serve as Coordinator and Assistant Professor at the UH Maui College Molokai Education Center. We are the only institution of higher education with a physical presence on the island of Molokai. Our mission centers on expanding access to education, "E ho'ona'auao honua 'oiai ma ka hale - A world of knowledge here at home." Ensuring that 'ike Hawai'i remains active, practiced, and passed forward is essential to the long-term wellbeing and cultural continuity of our community.

The perpetuation of voyaging knowledge is especially significant, as it allows future generations to remain firmly rooted in traditional Indigenous practices while developing the skills, discipline, and worldview that voyaging instills. Our institution has previously partnered with Lohiao Paoa to offer traditional navigation courses through early college programs, providing Moloka'i High School students with the rare and meaningful opportunity to learn non-instrument navigation and ancestral wayfinding techniques. These experiences demonstrated the powerful impact of place-based, culturally grounded education.

The acquisition of this property by Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i could serve as a catalyst to revive those navigation offerings and continue important conversations about expanding formal learning opportunities linked to voyaging. The site also holds tremendous potential as an outdoor learning space for several UH Maui College courses, including science, Hawaiian Studies, and Hawaiian Language. Traditional learning environments that support hands-on, problem-based learning consistently yield high learning outcomes and have been shown to deeply engage learners while strengthening cultural identity and community connection.

The positioning of the property Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i seeks to acquire is especially meaningful, as it is situated at the entrance of historic Kaunakakai town. I fully embrace the vision of Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i serving as the land stewards who welcome residents and visitors alike. Such a presence would offer a powerful and intentional first impression—one that reaffirms Moloka'i's

Maui College, Molokai

375 Kamehameha V Highway, P.O. Box 440, Kaunakakai, HI 96748

Telephone: (808) 553-4490, Facsimile: (808) 553-4495, <http://hawaii.edu/molokai>

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values of honoring Native knowledge, uplifting cultural practices, and investing in educational systems that support our youth and future generations.

If this property is not secured under community stewardship, there is a risk that access, cultural practice, and educational opportunity could be diminished or lost. Conversely, its protection and restoration will provide long-lasting benefits by anchoring cultural practice, education, and environmental stewardship in a visible and accessible way.

It is my hope that this 'āina becomes a place where voyaging traditions thrive, learning is intergenerational, and Moloka'i's commitment to 'ike Hawai'i is made evident to all who enter our town. I strongly support Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i's effort to acquire and care for this land and believe it represents a meaningful investment in Moloka'i's cultural and educational future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer my wholehearted support.

Me ke aloha,

Kelley Dudoit
Coordinator / Assistant Professor
UH Maui College – Molokai Education Center
(808) 553-4490

Maui College, Molokai

375 Kamehameha V Highway, P.O. Box 440, Kaunakakai, HI 96748

Telephone: (808) 553-4490, Facsimile: (808) 553-4495, <http://hawaii.edu/molokai>

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12/11/2025

VIA EMAIL: huiwaamolokai@gmail.com
Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i

VIA EMAIL: alyse.parker@tpl.org
Trust for Public Land
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1512
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Support for the protection and purchase of lands at Kaunakakai, Moloka'i
To Whom it May Concern,

Wa'akapaemua Canoe Club strongly supports the Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i and Trust for Public Land's effort to purchase and protect lands at Kaunakakai (23.8 acres, TMK(2) 5-3-005-006, in the ahupua'a of Kaunakakai, moku of Kona, on the island of Moloka'i).

This shoreline land in Kaunakakai offers a rare opportunity to fulfill a long-held dream of the Moloka'i voyaging community. Its calm, shallow waters and flat terrain make it an ideal home for Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i to care for canoes, practice navigation, and teach the next generation of Moloka'i voyagers. Today, erosion, invasive plants, and off-road driving in the "dustbowl" threaten the land, along with the pressures of private ownership. With proper care and restoration, the 'aina can absorb runoff, protect the reef, support native birds, and serve as a natural buffer against sea-level rise.

This area has long been used for fishing, canoe landings, and gathering. The name Kaunakahakai—meaning "resting on the beach"—reflects its historic role as a landing place and community hub. Protecting this 'aina under Moloka'i community stewardship will restore native habitat and ecological function, perpetuate wa'a traditions, and ensure that future generations can continue building the legacy of the Moloka'i voyaging community.

Wa'akapaemua Canoe Club was founded in 2002, and our name, given to us by the late Kumu John Kaimikaua, reminds us to put first what matters most: our keiki and our community. As the largest canoe club on Moloka'i, we are committed to teaching paddling as well as cultural values, discipline, and aloha for 'aina. Our motto, *One Heart, One Mind, One Spirit*, expresses our belief that paddling binds us as a community, strengthens pilina, and grounds us in the traditions of our kūpuna.

If Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i cannot acquire this property, the area risks continued degradation. Habitat for birds may be lost. The land, already long neglected, could remain a dumping ground or recreational space used in ways inconsistent with its cultural and ecological purpose. Outsiders with visions that are not aligned with Moloka'i values or Hawaiian protocol could take



ownership, threatening both the integrity of the space and its potential for community use. Poor or inappropriate management would prevent the clearing of invasive species and limit the potential to restore the area's ecological and cultural health.

Wa'akapaemua Canoe Club, along with the Moloka'i community, will greatly benefit from the area being protected, restored, and stewarded by Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i. Proper care would allow for education, regeneration of native species, and revitalization of the cultural significance of this coastal area. It would open the door to bringing back the art of navigation and sailing, ensuring these practices can be taught for generations to come. Through Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i, this 'āina can become a place for connection between people, 'āina, culture, and community.

Our vision for this 'āina is that it becomes a vibrant center for all things wa'a on Moloka'i; a true piko for paddling, voyaging, learning, and cultural practice. We envision strengthened pilina among all canoe clubs on island, with this space serving as a shared gathering place where unity, collaboration, and cultural learning thrive. By hosting canoe clubs on site, Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i will be able to support canoe racing events and provide a home base for training and cultural exchange.

But our vision extends beyond wa'a alone. We see the revitalization of this area as a way to help our entire community reconnect with its beauty, purpose, and history. This 'āina holds the potential to be a place of education, restoration, and 'ike where native ecosystems are healed, cultural practices are uplifted, and the deeper meaning of Kaunakakai as a kahua is brought back to life. Through collective stewardship, this space can strengthen pilina, foster a sense of belonging, and serve as a welcoming place where all who call Moloka'i home can learn, grow, and feel grounded in the spirit of this wahi pana.

Mahalo,

Tiana K Miguel
President, Wa'akapaemua Canoe Club
P.O. Box 1360
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

January 14 2026

VIA EMAIL: lohiaopaoa@yahoo.com
Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i

VIA EMAIL: alyse.parker@tpl.org
Trust for Public Land
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1512
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Support for the protection and purchase of lands at Kaunakakai, Moloka'i

To Whom it May Concern,

Aloha kākou. 'O au o Gandharva Mahina Hou Ross, a he Kama a Hina. Noho au i Waialua Manea Molokai a he kanaka holo moana au ma nā wa'a kailua holo moana o Hawaii nei. Aloha I am Gandharva Mahina Hou Ross. I live in Waialua Manea Molokai and I am a voyager. I have sailed on Hawai'i's deep sea voyaging canoes. I strongly supports the Hui Wa'a o Moloka'i and Trust for Public Land's effort to purchase and protect lands at Kaunakakai (23.8 acres, TMK(2) 5-3-005-006, in the ahupua'a of Kaunakakai, moku of Kona, on the island of Moloka'i.

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'O ko'u 'ohana, he 'ohana mahi'ai ma ka 'āina kuleana o na kupuna ma Halawa. Mahi'ai mākou ma na lo'i kalo mai na kupuna mai. 'O ko'u 'ohana he 'ohana holomoana, me na wa'a kaulua 'o Mo'okihaopiilani, Hokulea a me Hikianalia.

I come from a family of kalo farmers. We farm on kuleana land passed down for generations in Halawa valley. We are also voyagers who sail on Mo'okihaopiilani, Hokulea and Hikianalia and are supportive of any programs supporting voyaging for the

future generations of Molokai Ohana. We also support anything that continues the molokai traditions of Aloha 'Āina, and Molokai 'Aina Momona and look forward to working together with Hui Wa'a o Molokai to make voyaging programs available to our Molokai community

Mahalo,

Gandharva Mahina Hou Ross
Kalo Planter 'Āinaboypoi
PO Box 1461 Kaunakakai Hi 96748
808 336-0004
ainaboypoi@yahoo.com