



The Senate
Ka 'Aha Kenekoa

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 25, 2026

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of Item F-3.

This proposal represents a thoughtful and measured approach to managing a highly sensitive and important area. The Wai'anae Sinkhole Complex contains unique anchialine pool ecosystems that support native species such as 'opae 'ula, as well as documented cultural sites and burials. These resources require careful stewardship and protection, particularly during periods of restoration, monitoring, and hazard mitigation.

The request to authorize temporary, phased access restrictions is reasonable and appropriate given the conditions on the ground. As outlined, these restrictions are limited in scope and duration, and are tied directly to specific management activities, including debris removal, fire hazard mitigation, and the installation of protective measures. This approach allows DLNR to address safety concerns and complete necessary work, with access restored promptly as each phase is completed.

In addition, the presence of documented safety risks, including combustible debris and prior fire violations, underscores the importance of maintaining controlled work areas to protect both the public and those carrying out restoration efforts.

I also appreciate the ongoing coordination between DLNR, community partners, and Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae to support an orderly transition and continued communication throughout this process.

For these reasons, I respectfully **SUPPORT** the approval of Item F-3.

Mahalo,

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