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June 11, 2026

ATTN: Mr. Ryan Kanaka'ole, Chairperson  
Mr. David Day, First Deputy  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Submitted *via Email* to [blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov](mailto:blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov)

SUBJECT: **Strong Support for Agenda Item F2** Request for Administrative  
Fines and Penalties against 'Opihi Poachers for Take of 4,068 'opihi  
from within the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Reserve, in violation of Hawai'i  
Administrative Rules §13.60.4-5(d)(1), on September 18, 2025

Me ka ha'aha'a,

I am Hannah Kihalani Springer, a kama'āina of Ka'ūpūlehu and also the President of Hui Kahuwai, which has submitted separate testimony. This is my personal testimony.

As you know, over 4,000 'ōpihi, were poached from Kalaemanō at Ka'ūpūlehu on September 18, 2025. In elegant, coordinated actions, our Makai Watch coordinator observed the poaching and initiated the phone tree that engaged hoā 'āina and personnel from your Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement. I offer gratitude and admiration for your DOCARE Officers, who executed the initial enforcement actions and also extended kind courtesy to the hoā'āina who were involved.

I offer gratitude and admiration for your Division of Aquatic Resources, for continuing the elegant and coordinated actions, by pursuing this civil enforcement action and bringing it before the BLNR today. The effort that your DAR personnel put into this submittal reflects a commitment to and respect for the resources and community of Ka'ūpūlehu. 'O Ka'ūpūlehu ko mākou 'aina aloha.

I am grateful for the collaborations which have resulted in the best actions being taken in a bad situation, including this Agenda Item recommending action be taken against the poachers. **I pray you vote in favor of Item F2.** I pray that you join in on these elegant and coordinated actions.

'O au nō me ka 'oia'i'o,  
Hannah Kihalani Springer

