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**[EXTERNAL] Testimony Lease LH-24-002 Hearing 6-26-26. Signed**

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**From** Nancye Capri <nancyehawaii@msn.com>

**Date** Mon 6/22/2026 11:15 AM

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

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board,

I am writing in strong support of Item J-3, the proposed amendment to General Lease LH-24-002, which would expand the Hawai'i Island Paddlesports Association's (HIPA) leased area at Honokohau Small Boat Harbor from approximately 13,000 square feet to 20,500 square feet.

HIPA is a longstanding 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has served Hawai'i Island's community, introducing keiki, youth, and people of all ages to the traditions of paddle sports — an integral part of Hawaiian culture. Their youth program has been an incredible success, drawing families together and fostering a deep sense of community through the living traditions of Hawaiian water sports. By engaging young people in paddling, HIPA is not simply teaching a skill — it is perpetuating a cultural legacy, strengthening family bonds, and instilling values of teamwork, discipline, and aloha that extend well beyond the water. Expanding their space will allow them to better serve that mission by providing additional canoe and kayak storage, a dedicated training area, and a Hawaiian Hālau-style gathering space.

This expansion is essential to HIPA's mission. As the program continues to grow and the community's enthusiasm for Hawaiian water sports and culture deepens, additional space is needed to meet that demand — providing more room for canoe and kayak storage, training, and community gatherings that bring people of all ages together.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve Item J-3.

Mahalo for your consideration.

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