

June 23, 2026

State of Hawai'i  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
PO Box 621  
Honolulu, HI 96809

RE: Support J3 - Amend General Lease No. LH-24-002

Aloha Chairperson and Members, Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I strongly support J3, the expansion of the Hawai'i Island Paddlesports Association.

This project will provide significant benefits to paddlers across Hawai'i Island by improving access to facilities, programs, and opportunities for the paddling community. The expansion will help ensure that current and future generations have a welcoming and safe environment to learn, train, and participate in paddlesports.

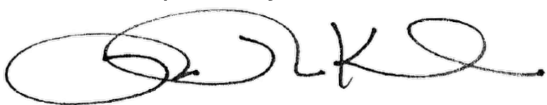
Most importantly, this investment supports our keiki. Paddling teaches discipline, teamwork, respect, cultural values, and healthy lifestyles. Expanding the Hawai'i Island Paddlesports Association will give our young people a safe place to gather, build positive relationships, and express their love for paddling while staying connected to our cultural traditions and ocean heritage.

This project is an investment in our community, our culture, and the future of Hawai'i Island paddling. By supporting this expansion, you are helping to create opportunities for generations of paddlers while preserving and perpetuating an important part of Hawai'i's heritage.

I respectfully urge your support of J3.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maile Nahakuelua', written in a cursive style.

Maile Nahakuelua  
HIPA Member

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**[EXTERNAL] BLNR Meeting Testimony - Item J3 Lease No.LH-24-002**

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**From** Shaun Roth <shaunroth@hawaii.twcbc.com>

**Date** Tue 6/23/2026 11:30 AM

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

I am writing in 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.

The requested expansion is a very small portion of the Honokohau Small Boat Harbor while HIPA's mission is making an extremely large and positive impact. This is an easy way for the State to support our local community.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve Item J-3.  
Thank you for your consideration.

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