

**[EXTERNAL] Hawaii Island Paddlesports Association**

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**From** Stephen Arnett <stevearnett@hawaiiantel.net>

**Date** Wed 6/24/2026 6:08 PM

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

 2 attachments (2 MB)

The new Halau.pdf; Junior Girls.pdf;

Aloha Chairman Kanaka'ole and All Board Members,

I am the vice president of Hawaii Island Paddlesports Association, (HIPA).

We are humbly requesting an expansion of our current footprint of our location at Honokohau Harbor on the Big Island.

The first attachment has two photos of our newly completed Halau. We are not totally finished, but very close.

About five years ago, we added a Junior Va'a program. That program was composed, mostly of boys. It has been a massive success. Our Junior boys had finished first overall in several long distance races, 12<sup>th</sup> overall in the Molokai Race (first juniors) and beat Lanikai's open men's crew.

In January, 2026, we put out a call for Junior Girls. At our first meeting we had 60 girls show up and indicate an interest. Subsequently, that number has dwindled to 35 plus or minus. With the additional one person canoes, we out grew our footprint of the halau in one day.

The second attachment shows what the halau looked like before the new construction, with canoes everywhere after the Junior Girls program was started and before their practices. Note that all of the Junior Girls are wearing bright orange shirts, for safety reasons.

As a result of the foregoing, we are requesting an expansion of our footprint to give us space to store the Junior's 6 person canoe and our trailers that can take as many as 9 to 12 canoes to a race. That way the juniors do not have to haul their own canoes. Prior to our expansion, there were 24 slots allocated for the Junior program, both boys and girls. We now have 60 slots for the Junior program and they are free to the participants.

Mahalo for your consideration and I pray that you will consider our request and approve the Halau expansion.

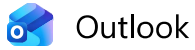
Aloha,

Steve Arnett









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[EXTERNAL] HIPA Hālau

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**From** Edward <pikihayward@yahoo.com>

**Date** Wed 6/24/2026 7:01 PM

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

Aloha nui kākou. I'm writing a letter of support of **Item J3** to allow the Hawaii Island Paddling Association to allow increase of land area in the Honokohau Boat Harbor in Kailua-Kona, Hi Tax Map Key: (3) 7-4-008:003-0036)

This will be helpful in so many ways to a paddling community that embraces Hawaiian canoe culture and values for the young and the old.

Mahalo,  
Eddie Hayward

Sent from my iPhone