

From: [Kalai Miller](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pu'u Ma elieli
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2025 6:25:16 PM

To whom it may concern-

As a life long resident of this area, I believe this is the wrong sort of development by outside investors that have no interest in our community and native values.

Kala'i Miller
47-108 Kamehameha Hwy

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Hi'iaka Jardine, and I am born and raised in Kahalu'u. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. The proposed project did not follow the due process of gaining community input before moving forward. I strongly suggest that Bella Foundation present its project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. Furthermore, I have strong concerns with the lack of archaeological surveys, environmental assessments, and cultural consultations that should have been done before applying for grant funding to obtain the parcel.

There is a documented heiau on the property and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been consulted for the proposed project. I strongly urge Bella Foundation to follow the proper protocols as it pertains to the heiau and potentially other culturally significant areas on the property. Additionally, the overall tone of the proposed project is not in sync with the neighborhood or the surrounding community. The parcel is currently zoned as Preservation and any proposed project on this parcel should have a model that prioritizes preserving the area by removing invasive species, introducing appropriate native plant species, and protecting the existing cultural resources. Further development of this area is inappropriate and will have detrimental environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects on the area.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. Mahalo for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Hi'iaka Jardine

From: [Kristy Lam](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2025 10:17:17 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Kristy, and I am from Mauna Pōhaku in the ahupua'a of Waikīkī, moku of Kona. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Kristy Lam

UH Mānoa, Natural Resources & Environmental Management Department

From: [David K Shizuma](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Opposition to item 2.B of LLCC Meeting 88 on Jan 29, 2025
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:09:49 AM

Aloha committee members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am testifying in opposition to item 2.B., the proposed Kahalu‘u Nature Sanctuary in Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu.

I am a member of the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board, which consists of the neighboring neighborhood to where this project is being proposed. While this proposed project is not in our boundaries, the impacts of a project like this will definitely negatively impact our neighborhood and should have been consulted.

I cannot support this proposed project as it negatively impacts our communities in Ko‘olaupoko, while looking to provide profits to these outside investors that are bringing what they think would be good for the residents.

The board of the Bella Bond Foundation are ALL not from Hawaii (as can be gathered from their website) and seem to have not consulted with local organizations. If they had consulted with local organizations, they would have known that they should get community support before moving forward with the project.

While elements like “wild and organic” agriculture, “eco-friendly treehouses,” and pathways made of “wooden boardwalks” and “rope-railings” sound like something that nearby residents might support, it’s missing many elements that actually are of high importance to the residents.

There are a many number of strong, community-based, community-focused organizations that belong and operate solely in Ko‘olaupoko, many of which operate within a few mile radius from the proposed project site. Paepae ‘o He‘eia, Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi, and Papahana Kuaola are a few organizations that they could have consulted and collaborated with to garner community support for this project.

In fact, I propose that one of these organizations take on the planning and operation of any future similar project at this project site. They are already doing land restoration, environmental resource protection, regenerative agriculture, education, community support programs, and regenerative tourism. These organizations are well suited and community supported in this work. The communities have trust in these organizations and would happily support a project by them.

This project proposes to suggest to people use a taxi or ride-share to arrive at their facility. This already indicates that locals will have issues in getting there, and we already see that the priority use for this place will be for tourists. Any project here (and anywhere), should be for the community first, while tourism comes after the needs of the community are served.

There is no parking, the road has limited sight-distance, and the turns are dangerous. This is not a road that needs ANY more cars on it. I’ve lived in Kaneohe all my life and I know that road is

REALLY dangerous. Let's not make it worse for those who already live there.

The native people of this 'āina was here for generations and have tested new methods/plants all over these islands. They've accumulated the knowledge and fine-tuned living in Hawaii successfully and in harmony with our environment. Any new project should be founded in, and operated with, those lessons in mind. That cannot be done by someone who has no connection to our 'āina, but that is second-hand and natural to those who have that connection. Let's look to empower our local communities and local people to create projects that serve our communities first and are founded on those lessons/values.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Keoni Shizuma

From: [Bridgitte Daniel](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 2.B.
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:52:37 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Bridgitte Wehilani McInerny and I am born and raised here in Kahaluu and have called this special little community HOME for 37 years. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Bridgitte Wehilani McInerny

From: [Natasha Hopkins-Moniz](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST kahaluu ecovillage
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:45:25 AM

My name is Natasha Hopkins-Moniz, I was born and raised in Kaneohe, Hawaii and I am half Hawaiian. I am writing to you today to show extreme opposition for Kahaluu's supposed nature sanctuary aka ecovillage. Kahaluu and Kaneohe is over developed enough and does not need more homes. They can cover it up all they want as something economical but really all they are doing is building and selling more houses. That will probably be out of price range for local and native residents. People love Hawaii because of the land. Not because it is overcrowded with homes and apartments and tourists. The only homes that should be being built right now is Hawaiian homes for native people. Far too long politicians have been doing nothing about our housing crisis and more and more locals are moving away. This project does nothing for them. It is just another greedy business trying to make money under the false pretenses of being a non profit. I do not see how building homes is economic. All it is doing is replacing our beautiful land with more infrastructure and making our oceans more polluted with more runoff. That does not help Hawaii at all. That does not help native residents. How dare you politicians keep changing agriculture land and land preserves into something that can be built on. There is a reason they were put there. To keep our island from being overdeveloped! Enough is enough. We do not need more homes in Kahaluu or Kaneohe. It's time our politicians stand up for the people and not the businesses.

Kū kia'i Hawai'i!
Malama 'āina!

Natasha Hopkins Moniz
45-623 Halekou Rd
Kaneohe HI 96744
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Riana O'Keefe](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ko'olaupoko LLC Testimony
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:58:24 AM

Aloha,

I'm writing to submit a testimony of opposition to the proposed land development by the Bella Bond Foundation, above Pu'u Ma'eli'eli in Ko'olaupoko on O'ahu, which has been my hometown since the 1980s, and my parent's / grandparents home long before that.

3 Main Reasons to Oppose the Bella Bond Proposal -

1. Ko'olaupoko is not a tourist attraction, and does not require a 131 acre hotel to exist among the small neighborhoods and family farms. Water in farmland should be kept for farming, and sustaining the community through times of drought. A 131 acre hotel requires much more water than what is currently being used, and what we have is needed for the current residents.
2. Ko'olaupoko does have a need for small, reasonable single family home growth as time allows, and a if a large amount of land is given to hotel developers instead of local families, there will be a long term set back in our ability to provide homes for our own children in the future.
3. The company seeking 131 acres on the Windward side is also questionable. A quick Google search shows they have no ties to the island outside of a single donated acre gifted to them by an anonymous donor. Further search queries show that they have offices in Texas, India, and Arizona. Perhaps their lofty goals of housing the homeless community could begin in one of their other home states, where land is cheaper, more plentiful, and less in demand. Considering they do not have any proof that they have been able to reach their goals in cheaper states, it is questionable as to whether or not they could sustain their plans in a much more expensive, and remote area.

I thank you for your time!

Aloha,
Riana OK

From: [Kyrie Puaoi](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Meeting 88
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:25:01 AM

Aloha,

I am writing in regards to Bella Bond's request for funds to build atop Puu Maelieli.

As kanaka, raised in Kahalu'u, having spent my childhood running around in the hills surrounding Maelieli, I strongly oppose any construction, funding and support of this development.

After hearing of Bella Bond's intent, I looked further into their website to learn more and gain a better understanding of who they are and the reason for their request.

I am aware that my thoughts are only opinion and speculation, but my observation of their site is that it is fake and highly misleading.

There is no apparent evidence or facts to support any of their claims. They speak very generally towards the notion of helping people and the environment, with no specific mention of kanaka or any of the people of THIS community, or the aina on which they seek to develop.

There is no validity to support the integrity of this company or their so-called mission.

Aside from that, the traffic through our community is already, steadily growing every day without the capacity and infrastructure to take on more. I am certain that my community members would agree.

I respectfully request that you deny any such funding and furthering of this project and this company, in Hawaii, altogether.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kyrie Puaoi

From: [Corinna Gray](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meeting 88
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:45:21 AM

Aloha,

I am a Native Hawaiian educator, born and raised in Kahaluu. This is the community that I grew up in and love.

This is written testimony AGAINST the Bella Bond Foundation development in Kahaluu. NO government funding should be given to an organization that is unknown to the community and does not list sufficient information for the purpose and intention for the project. This project will hurt and do more harm than good for the people, community and the forest. NO MORE DEVELOPMENT IN KAHALUU OR FUNDING to unknown organizations.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Corinna Gray

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jordan Kapeliela](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bella Bond Development TESTIMONY
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:52:09 AM

Aloha oe to those who reed this,

We the Kahaluu Community do not want any development from this Bella Bond company. This company states within their paperwork that is viewable online that their business is filed as a real estate development company that seeks to build within kahaluu. We do not want another real estate development company coming into our Ahupuaa to construct any large building structures regardless of the company. But since I am writing this, this Bella Bond company says to have developed within Texas, but this company has not done any work so we believe them to be an untrustworthy source. This company could be trying to get funds from our government to pay themselves (the owner and the workers) tax-free through their nonprofit organization.

Please don't allow these people in.

Mahalo.

From: [Marshall Comstock](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 2B
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:25:59 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Marshall Comstock, and I am from He'eia. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions

about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Marshall Comstock

From: [Aja Grande](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony re Pu'u Mā'eli'eli
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:32:07 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Aja and I am from ahupua'a Pālolo. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

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Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Dr. Aja Grande
O'ahu noho papa

From: [Phillip](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meeting 88 Legacy Land Conservation Commission Written Testimony Opposition to Item 2B
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 11:41:23 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Phillip Kapu, and I am a conservationist, 'aina worker, and lineal descendant from Kahalu'u. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. As a lineal descendant of Kahalu'u, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area. I have heard my whole life how we have lost many of our cultural spaces to development all throughout Ko'olaupoko and do not want to see one more lost to a greedy landowner for a For Profit cause right here in Kahalu'u.

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli is a "Wahi Pana", or Storied Place for Hawaiians as the place where Hina, our goddess of the moon, climbed a rainbow to get there. These places are usually developed and destroyed throughout our history without notice to the public by skipping major steps in the processes of acquisition. The facilities and activities requested by the BellaBond foundation seem to be one more way to separate us from a large piece of land in our community physically and monetarily.

This parcel of land and the activities done on it should benefit the community directly below in terms of safety from landslides, mudslides and flash floods as well as provide sustenance by growing canoe plant food trees like ulu and sweet potato that have been known to be grown in these areas. Vegetable gardens proposed in the brochure which was handed out in the community would involve the use of flattening or bulldozing land to make warehouses and trails for machinery, as well as acres and acres of flat land for vegetable farming that would not work on the cliffs of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli. Not to mention the use of pesticides and herbicides for western farming practices to actually work in Hawai'i which will flow down to the homes below. This community has also fought in recent years to keep businesses out of their neighborhood to keep its rural nature. A plan that is 20% eco-tourism goes directly against the wishes of the immediately affected folks below.

The company has not shown any previous knowledge of indigenous Hawaiian farming, or modern day restoration techniques to bring nutrients back to 'aina in order to even start the process of farming. They also have no knowledge of the native plants that were there nor the invasive plants that are there now. I know this because of the items proposed in the project brochure. Their AI generated graphics dont have any native hawaiian plants in them as well.

The Bella Bond foundation has switched their website and their goals for this property

at least 1 time since getting signatures from the community. From these actions, being extremely vague in some situations, creating an AI brochure with little to no knowledge of the land itself, not reaching out to the Neighborhood board or local communities properly, and trying to obtain public funds for personal gains, I strongly oppose this project and hope you do too. The disconnect Hawaiians have with our home is because of projects like this. Separation from these Wahi Pana makes it easier for local families to leave home and push them out to places they do not want to actually live. A project of this size on a parcel this large, should largely be run and managed by community organizations and the community itself. Mahalo for your time.

-Phillip Kapu

From: [Joseph Wat](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony: RE Agenda Item #2B
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 12:31:42 PM
Attachments: [Ma'eli'eli - Bella Bond.pdf](#)

Aloha nui kākou,

I am writing in to share significant qualms about the Bella Bond Foundations request for acquisition of the top of Pu‘u Mā‘eli‘eli (requested under the title of Kahalu‘u Nature Sanctuary).

Any project of this scale requires many important ingredients in order to succeed and be pono. These include:

- Documented history of land management as an organization or from employees
- Partnerships with nearby conservation organizations
- Cultural grounding (considering the location of Kailikahi heiau on-site)
- and, most importantly, significant community support.

As I understand it now, the Bella Bond Foundation has NONE of these essential ingredients, making this request extremely premature. The AI generated proposal shared to a very small group of neighbors (attached below) does not demonstrate enough forethought and planning to justify transfer of land ownership and the significant use of public funds. The document also covers a wide variety of projects, outcomes, and potential community impacts without sufficiently detailing any of them.

Although the state is in dire need of committed land stewards working to maintain healthy environments in the face of invasive species and appropriate cultural access for restoration efforts, the state has a high obligation to ensure that the kahu of ‘āina parcels are prepared for the task, working for the public good, and have the grounding to honor the cultural sites present on property.

With this in mind, I strongly oppose the Bella Bond Foundation’s proposal for the Kahalu‘u Nature Sanctuary. Before considering a resubmission of this application, I would recommend the Bella Bond Foundation to gain experience in land management, partner with nearby community organizations, and seek letters of support from groups such as Aha Moku Advisory Council, Kahalu‘u Neighborhood Board, and Kāne‘ohe Neighborhood Board.

No public support means no public funds for this project. Mahalo for your time.

Aloha no,
Joseph Wat, Ka‘alaea Resident

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From: [Jessie Makainai](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOR A REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING 88;
Item 2, B. Bella Bond Foundation Testimony
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 1:18:10 PM

Item 2. B. Bella Bond Foundation

Aloha Mai Kākou,

‘O Jessie Maka‘īna‘i ko‘u inoa. No Kahalu‘u mai au. I stand in opposition to the acquisition of the proposed Fee Title to the Bella Bond Foundation for the 131 acres located at (1) 4-7-001:002. The proposed nature sanctuary is not culturally appropriate for TMK 4-7-001:002 known to those of us from this ahupua‘a as Pu‘u Ma‘eli ‘eli. Should a nature sanctuary ever occupy this space in the future it should be modeled in the Native Hawaiian Fashion planned, built, and managed by Native Hawaiians from our community, preferably lineal descendants who understand the gravity of the kuleana it takes to steward cultural spaces in a country community. Our community already struggles with over tourism occupying our residential, tax payer funded, State Park at He‘eia Kea, which is directly across the street from the proposed project. Waste water solutions has been a constant issue with the State Pier, a development like this will not be able to sustain the volume of visitors it seeks to entertain without severe detriment to its surrounding neighbors and Kāne‘ohe Bay. Please do not allow foreign interests whose office is based out of Texas gentrify what little piece of country O‘ahu has left.

Mahalo Piha.

From: [Carol Hutchison](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony against Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 1:52:17 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Carol, and I am from Kahalu'u. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

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Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Carol Hutchison

January 27, 2025

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Jennifer Nakamura, I come from Koolaupoko, Kahaluu to be more specific. I am in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. I do NOT believe that the project proposed by Bella Bond Foundation aligns at all to the ethics and intentions of the Legacy Land Conservation Committee nor their programs.

I believe in restoration, sustainability and actively do what I can to malama our community and aina. That being said, I have many concerns about the potential impacts this project will have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

My first issue is that none of this organization is from Hawaii, is native Hawaiian or has done work of this kind in our communities. Their DCCA paperwork reflects agents from Texas and Washington and the Board are foreign to Hawaii and perhaps even the United States.

The proposed project is located on the northern side of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, a place which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans. There are many facets to conserving and managing a "watershed" and there are so many functioning parts, things that will affect another, like erosion, plant care and management, which Bella Bond claims will be "minimal maintenance." It is naive to believe that anything in any forest area like kahaluu will be minimal work to maintain.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

January 27, 2025

I believe that when proposed projects like this come up, the State and City and their agents should be very careful in reviewing all plans and procedures. Aside from this public funding being denied, I believe this organization should reel back, and start from the beginning again, to include community conversations and input, especially with those who are kupa aina or generational descendants of the area of proposed project. Plans like this should never be approved without community support. Ecotourism as Bella Bond's brochure shows is not appropriate for that area. They have mentioned building warehouses, storage facilities, a home, 10 tourist units as well as staff housing... all of these things are in theory cool, but in real life, not smart. The location alone and the amount of rain and flooding is insane... for these people to want to build 2 miles of a boardwalk and winding paths through native forests seems a bit delusional. There is already a huge wastewater and infrastructure issues all along our coastlines...and Bella Bond mentioned nothing of infrastructure or waste management ideas. Their project point blank will do more harm than provide conservation for our community.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form and ask that the Legacy Land Conservation Committee does not grant public monies to this organization "Bella Bond Foundation" for this awful project. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who KNOW and are already DOING the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community. I also ask that this project not be permitted without community input or consent. Far too long people come to our communities and make anykine, do whatever they want without regard for spaces and faces that were there before them. This plan they have presented is a money maker, a quick grab... many of us would rather stand with the rocks, in the dirt, with no money than see our aina (land) abused or disrespected.

Mahalo, arigato, salamat po, faafetai, thank you for taking the time to read this and for your aloha and consideration.... I do believe we all know what is right and what is wrong and have faith that you will make the decision that is right for our community.

With great concern,

Jennifer Nakamura

Kahaluu, Koolaupoko, Oahu, Hawaii

From: [Emily Stone](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DLNR DOFAW LLCC Written Testimony for Meeting 88
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 2:02:44 PM

Aloha DLNR DOFAW Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am submitting written testimony for DLNR DOFAW LLCC Meeting 88 scheduled for Wednesday January 29, 2025 at 9:30AM HST. I am writing in opposition of applicant Bella Bond Foundation. I oppose the request by Bella Bond Foundation to develop a Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary on Pu'u Ma'eli'eli. I oppose Bella Bond Foundation's request for land acquisition of TMK parcel (1) 4-7-001:002 for 131 acres on Pu'u Ma'eli'eli.

I am from the ahupua'a of He'eia. I was born and raised in Temple Valley in Ahuimanu in Kaneohe. I live on the mauka side of Pu'u Ma'eli'eli, and my family's home borders the forest. I grew up hiking Pu'u Ma'eli'eli trail, and I have seen the few 'ohi'a lehua trees remaining. I am very familiar with the area, and I am a member of the community, and I strongly oppose the Bella Bond Foundation grant application from the land conservation fund.

Bella Bond Foundation's proposed eco-tourism village on top of Pu'u Ma'eli'eli does not have any direct tie to the conservation of the ecology and lands of the area, nor does it have any tie to the local community. The organization does not have a history of work in He'eia/Kahalu'u/Kane'ohe area. According to their website, the organization does not appear to have a connection to Hawai'i--with no organization members or leadership located in Hawai'i, and no history of any previous work in Hawai'i. I do not believe that Bella Bond Foundation will be a good land steward of this parcel.

According to the [Bella Bond Foundation Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary proposal](#), they are proposing to develop 10 treehouses, multiple trails, and a 2-acre farm in the area. The proposed project has no direct tie to the conservation of the flora and fauna in the area and no tie to local community benefits. Developed treehouses and trails will be offered for reservation only at specified times. The proposal also states that Kahalu'u Heiau is part of the sanctuary area, and they must "learn more about its history before presenting it to the public." They clearly do not have an understanding of Native Hawaiian culture and history, and they do not have a relationship with the local community.

They appear to be proposing a capitalistic tourism development under the guise of environmental sustainability and conservation. The proposed trail and treehouse development does not contribute to the conservation and restoration of the native forest trees on Pu'u Ma'eli'eli. Rather, their proposed development appears to serve personal financial gain and private interests. Additionally, the AI-generated images and language in the proposal are not rooted in the reality of the area and the community. Based on the AI-generated images/text, grammatical/spelling errors, and logical errors on their website and proposal, they even appear to be a potential scam organization.

Mahalo,
Emily

From: [Rachel Stone](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DLNR DOFAW LLCC Written Testimony for Meeting 88
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 2:10:15 PM

Aloha DLNR DOFAW Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

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With Aloha,

Rachel Stone

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January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing on behalf of my family and myself to express our strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. Our family has lived on this ridge for generations and continues to reside here, with a deep connection to its land, history, and cultural significance. As individuals with expertise in conservation, education, farming, and community advocacy, we urge the Commission to reject this application.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain unspoiled for future generations. Bella Bond's proposal, however, prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure under the guise of conservation. Their lack of a tangible stewardship plan—no commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or engaging in meaningful cultural preservation—speaks volumes. This is not a conservation project; it's a commercial Trojan horse.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of responsible land stewardship, yet the Bella Bond Foundation's approach has been anything but transparent. Their minimal efforts, limited to flyers and vague mentions of brunches, insult the intelligence and dignity of our community. Where are the conversations with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or the residents who will be most impacted by this development? The absence of true community involvement underscores the deceptive nature of this proposal.

The foundation's financial filings raise serious red flags. Their Form 990 reveals a sudden revenue increase to over \$500,000, with minimal programmatic spending of just \$19,626 and disproportionate administrative costs spent on travel and accommodations. Even more concerning is their lack of employees and only one reported volunteer, which raises significant doubts about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. Moreover, the individuals listed as the Foundation's leaders are nearly impossible to verify through any meaningful public records or professional profiles. How does an organization with such opaque leadership and financial practices expect to gain the community's trust?

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is not just a piece of land; it is a vital part of our community's cultural heritage, environmental health, and resilience. Preserving this 'āina is critical to public health, particularly for Native Hawaiians, whose ancestral ties to the land are a source of identity and healing in the face of historical trauma. To allow such a deceptive and poorly planned project to proceed would be a disservice to this community and to the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program.

We deeply appreciate the Commission's commitment to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process you provide for public input. We respectfully call upon you to uphold the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program by rejecting this application. Together, we can ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and dedication to stewarding Hawai'i's precious natural resources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Evan Reppun Beachy
Born and raised on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli
beachy@post.harvard.edu

Addendum to Letter Opposing Bella Bond Foundation Proposal

Detailed Arguments and Supporting Questions

Misalignment with the Mission of Land Legacy Conservation Funds

The Bella Bond Foundation's proposal does not align with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, which emphasizes the preservation of lands with significant environmental, cultural, and community value. Instead, the proposal prioritizes infrastructure for eco-tourism, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, with no detailed plans for stewardship of the land.

Key Concerns:

- The lack of commitments to managing invasive species, planting native species, or preserving cultural landmarks undermines the conservation goals of the program.
- The inclusion of eco-tourism elements suggests a profit-driven motive disguised as conservation.

Questions:

1. How does the proposed infrastructure align with the conservation goals of the Land Legacy Conservation Program?
2. Why was the application not dismissed for lacking a robust stewardship plan?
3. What specific actions will the foundation take to ensure ecological preservation?

Lack of Community Engagement and Partnerships

Community engagement is essential for successful land stewardship. The Bella Bond Foundation's minimal efforts—limited to flyers and vague mentions of community brunches—demonstrate a lack of genuine interest in involving the local community or its stakeholders.

Key Concerns:

- No evidence of partnerships with local conservation experts, cultural practitioners, or organizations.
- The absence of meaningful consultation undermines the credibility of their claims of community benefit.

Questions:

1. What local organizations, cultural practitioners, or conservation experts have they partnered with?
2. How has the community been consulted prior to the submission of this application?
3. How does the foundation plan to involve the community in the ongoing management of the site?

Environmental and Cultural Impact

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile ecosystem with steep terrain that makes it unsuitable for farming or heavy infrastructure. The area also holds significant cultural value, and its conservation zoning reflects the need to preserve it for future generations.

Key Concerns:

- Farming on steep terrain could lead to erosion and environmental degradation.
- Development poses a threat to cultural sites and native ecosystems.

Questions:

1. How will the foundation address the risks of erosion associated with farming and infrastructure development?
2. What measures are in place to protect cultural sites and native ecosystems from disruption?
3. How does the proposal honor the cultural and historical significance of the ridge?

Financial Transparency and Viability

The Bella Bond Foundation's financial history raises serious concerns about their capacity to manage a project of this scale. Their Form 990 shows a dramatic revenue increase to over \$500,000, but their expenditures include minimal programmatic spending and disproportionately high administrative costs.

Key Concerns:

- Only \$19,626 was spent on program services, with significant funds allocated to travel and accommodations.
- The foundation lists no employees and only one volunteer, calling into question their operational capacity.
- The individuals listed as leaders of the foundation are difficult to verify through public records or professional profiles.

Questions:

1. How does the foundation justify its disproportionate spending on administrative costs and travel?
2. Why is there no evidence of active programs or initiatives tied to their stated mission?
3. Can the foundation demonstrate financial and operational capacity to sustain a project of this scale?

Increased Neighborhood Traffic and Disturbance

The proposed development would attract significant traffic to the area without providing adequate plans for parking or transportation management. This could disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's ecosystem.

Key Concerns:

- The reliance on rideshare services (e.g., Uber, Lyft) as a transportation plan is unrealistic and unsustainable.
- Increased traffic may lead to noise pollution, safety issues, and environmental harm.

Questions:

1. What transportation and parking plans are in place for visitors and staff?
2. How will the foundation mitigate the impact of increased traffic on the neighborhood?
3. What steps will be taken to ensure transportation plans align with conservation goals?

Misrepresentation of Sustainability

While the foundation claims to prioritize sustainability, the proposal's focus on infrastructure suggests otherwise. The emphasis on eco-tourism revenue undermines their claims of minimal environmental impact.

Key Concerns:

- The heavy focus on infrastructure is inconsistent with genuine sustainability efforts.
- No detailed plans for long-term ecological monitoring or land management.

Questions:

1. What is the foundation's definition of sustainability, and how does this proposal align with it?

2. How will the proposed infrastructure avoid degrading the land's natural state?
3. What are the long-term plans for ecological monitoring and maintenance?

Addendum to Letter Opposing Bella Bond Foundation Proposal

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1. What is the foundation's definition of sustainability, and how does this proposal align with it?
2. How will the proposed infrastructure avoid degrading the land's natural state?
3. What are the long-term plans for ecological monitoring and maintenance?

From: [IPNT Gallery](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is not for sale!!
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 2:41:25 PM

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I write on behalf of myself, my friend's and my family to oppose the Bella Bond Foundations application for funds to develop a so-called nature sanctuary on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahaluu, Hawaii. This land has been our home for generations, and their proposal is conservation in name only.

Bella Bonds plan prioritizes eco-tourism profits over stewardship, with no real commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or preserving cultural heritage. Their community engagement consists of flyers and vague brunches, not genuine dialogue with residents or experts.

Hawaii already has one of the highest numbers of nonprofits under \$1 million, many of which exploit public lands for private gain. Do we really need more nonprofits using conservation as a cover to maximize profits while ignoring the needs of the āina and its people?

Their financials are just as murky: sudden revenue spikes, minimal program spending, and no visible leadership or operational capacity. This is not conservation it's a commercial scheme dressed in greenwashing.

. It is a vital piece of our community's identity and resilience. We urge you to reject this proposal and uphold the true mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program: protecting Hawaii's precious lands for future generations.

Thank you for your time and dedication.

Sincerely,

Micah William Grasse

1127 Bethel St. Suite 5

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha,

Micah William Grasse

IPNT.org

808.800.1723

Aloha Chair Sinton and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Hi'ilei Kawelo, formerly a Legacy Land Conservation Commissioner and a fifth-generation kupa'āina and resident of Kahalu'u. My 'ohana has resided in Pākole, Kahalu'u since the early 1900s. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to not consider this applicant for Legacy Land Conservation Commission funding.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject and deny funding for the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Hi'ilei Kawelo

4th Generation Pākole, Kahalu'u resident and kupa'āina

Aloha Chair Sinton and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Keoni Kawelo. My 'ohana has resided in Pākole, Kahalu'u since the early 1900s. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

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Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Keoni Kealiiuikamoana Kawelo
4th Generation Pākole, Kahalu'u resident
47-270 Kamehameha Highway
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

From: [Glenn Beachy](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pu'u Ma'eli'eli ridge
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 3:14:21 PM

January 27, 2025
Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing on behalf of my family and myself to express our strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. Our family has lived on this ridge for generations and continues to reside here, with a deep connection to its land, history, and cultural significance. As individuals with expertise in conservation, education, farming, and community advocacy, we urge the Commission to reject this application.

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Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is not just a piece of land; it is a vital part of our community's cultural heritage, environmental health, and resilience. Preserving this 'āina is critical to public health, particularly for Native Hawaiians, whose ancestral ties to the land are a source of identity and healing in the face of historical trauma. To allow such a deceptive and poorly planned project to proceed would be a disservice to this community and to the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program.

We deeply appreciate the Commission's commitment to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process you provide for public input. We respectfully call upon you to uphold the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program by rejecting this application. Together, we can ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for the health and well-being of the land and its people. Thank you for your time, diligence, and dedication to stewarding Hawai'i's precious natural resources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,
Glenn Beachy, Martha Reppun Beachy
47-406 Lulani St
Kaneohe, HI. 96744

Addendum to Letter Opposing Bella Bond Foundation Proposal Detailed Arguments and Supporting Questions

Misalignment with the Mission of Land Legacy Conservation Funds

The Bella Bond Foundation's proposal does not align with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, which emphasizes the preservation of lands with significant environmental, cultural, and community value. Instead, the proposal prioritizes infrastructure for eco-tourism, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, with no detailed plans for stewardship of the land.

Key Concerns:

- The lack of commitments to managing invasive species, planting native species, or preserving cultural landmarks undermines the conservation goals of the program.
- The inclusion of eco-tourism elements suggests a profit-driven motive disguised as conservation.

Questions:

1. How does the proposed infrastructure align with the conservation goals of the Land Legacy Conservation Program?
2. Why was the application not dismissed for lacking a robust stewardship plan?
3. What specific actions will the foundation take to ensure ecological preservation?

Lack of Community Engagement and Partnerships

Community engagement is essential for successful land stewardship. The Bella Bond Foundation's minimal efforts—limited to flyers and vague mentions of community brunches—demonstrate a lack of genuine interest in involving the local community or its stakeholders.

Key Concerns:

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Questions:

1. What local organizations, cultural practitioners, or conservation experts have they partnered with?
2. How has the community been consulted prior to the submission of this application?
3. How does the foundation plan to involve the community in the ongoing management of the site?

Environmental and Cultural Impact

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile ecosystem with steep terrain that makes it unsuitable for farming or heavy infrastructure. The area also holds significant cultural value, and its conservation zoning reflects the need to preserve it for future generations.

Key Concerns:

- Farming on steep terrain could lead to erosion and environmental degradation.
- Development poses a threat to cultural sites and native ecosystems.

Questions:

1. How will the foundation address the risks of erosion associated with farming and infrastructure development?
2. What measures are in place to protect cultural sites and native ecosystems from disruption?
3. How does the proposal honor the cultural and historical significance of the ridge?

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The Bella Bond Foundation's financial history raises serious concerns about their capacity to manage a project of this scale. Their Form 990 shows a dramatic revenue increase to over \$500,000, but their expenditures include minimal programmatic spending and disproportionately high administrative costs.

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- The foundation lists no employees and only one volunteer, calling into question their operational capacity.
- The individuals listed as leaders of the foundation are difficult to verify through public records or professional profiles.

Questions:

1. How does the foundation justify its disproportionate spending on administrative costs and travel?
2. Why is there no evidence of active programs or initiatives tied to their stated mission?
3. Can the foundation demonstrate financial and operational capacity to sustain a project of this scale?

Increased Neighborhood Traffic and Disturbance

The proposed development would attract significant traffic to the area without providing adequate plans for parking or transportation management. This could disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's ecosystem.

Key Concerns:

- The reliance on rideshare services (e.g., Uber, Lyft) as a transportation plan is unrealistic and unsustainable.
- Increased traffic may lead to noise pollution, safety issues, and environmental harm.

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1. What transportation and parking plans are in place for visitors and staff?
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- No detailed plans for long-term ecological monitoring or land management.

Questions:

1. What is the foundation's definition of sustainability, and how does this proposal align with it?
2. How will the proposed infrastructure avoid degrading the land's natural state?
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January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

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Sincerely,

Kalena Kawahakui-Chun
2184 Aupaka Street

Pearl City, HI 96782

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Detailed Arguments and Supporting Questions

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From: [kaira.resch](mailto:kaira.resch@dlnr.hawaii.gov)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](mailto:DLNR.FW.LLCC@dlnr.hawaii.gov)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 3:30:47 PM

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing on behalf of myself and the many who do not have the ability to send a letter or show up for testimony. I express our strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain unspoiled for future generations. Bella Bond's proposal, however, prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure under the guise of conservation. Their lack of a tangible stewardship plan—no commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or engaging in meaningful cultural preservation—speaks volumes. This is not a conservation project; it's a commercial Trojan horse.

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We deeply appreciate the Commission's commitment to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process you provide for public input. We respectfully call upon you to uphold the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program by rejecting this application. Together, we can ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and dedication to stewarding Hawai'i's precious natural resources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

kaira resch - kaira_r@yahoo.com

From: [JK W](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 88 January 29 – January 30, 2025
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 3:35:59 PM
Attachments: [Agenda-88.pdf](#)

****To the Honorable Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,****

I am writing to express strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's request for \$1,462,500 in funding to build the "Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary" on 131 acres in Kahalu'u, O'ahu.

Disguising a request to fund the development of a single-family estate under the poorly casted veneer of a "Nature Sanctuary" is not only a mark of brazen disrespect to Hawaii's culture, community, and 'āina – but an unfortunately uncommon pattern between yesterday and today's living narrative of land disposition, cultural erasure, and mismanagement of land.

The Bella Bond Foundation's mission and plan lack substantial clarity, and there is no clear correlation to the issues they are trying to solve with this development. There is no mention of ahupua'a or 'āina stewardship, which is not surprising given that the leadership team is neither based in nor from Hawaii. The planning process appears drastically out of touch from the input within the local community that it would impact in 'Āhuimanu. The organization's website prominently features cheaply fabricated AI-generated images and stock photos - a clear indicator that the planning is not well thought out and does not incorporate the voices and needs of those who reside there.

Adding to the list of red flags, the Bella Bond Foundation claims to provide services to struggling mothers and children but provide no examples of helping these communities, instead referencing hotel developments in Texas and Florida. Another important point of suspicion is that their nonprofit is curiously delinquent on filing their taxes for public viewing, as required. Those that were filed were set up as 990EZ's (for nonprofits with annual income less than \$50,000). This is highly unlikely for an organization claiming to have developed housing in Texas and Florida.

The Legacy Land Conservation Program funds should be directed towards the actual conservation of Legacy Lands rather than developing on them. It is made clear on the Bella Bond Foundation's website that this proposed "sanctuary" is to be built selfishly as a single-family home and as a headquarters for their organization. This blatant misrepresentation of conservation efforts is not only misleading but also a misuse of resources that could otherwise be allocated to genuine conservation projects.

It is offensively ironic for a nonprofit that claims to extend "unwavering support to widows, single mothers, and orphans" to be offering to build their "base" and single family "home" around Pu'u Ma'eli'eli. This wahi pana carries the mo'olelo and marks the final moments of Hinaiakamalama's escape from a violent and abusive husband. Plainly, to approve the abuse of our storied place that already represents sanctuary from suffering would be the most painful form of degradation that the Legacy Land Commission could participate in.

If approved for funding, this development would be an unforgivable desecration of the culture, environment, and communities it claims to represent. It would cause irreparable harm to the community in Hawaii at large by setting a precedent for non-local organizations to wantonly develop the islands without a minimum of due diligence to understanding this place and its people.

As one who was born and raised in 'Āhuimanu, just beneath Pu'u Ma'eli'eli, and whose parents still reside in the community, I can confirm that this 'āina has fed my family, friends, and the larger community in more ways than one.

The proposed "Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary" makes brazenly clear in its questionable ask that it is not being proposed in the spirit of feeding anyone, but "one" family - and does not meet the criteria for exceptional - nor urgent conservation needs that should guide your funding decisions.

I implore you to deny funding this literal excuse for a project and allocate the resources to the many critical conservation efforts that are real and most of all, present here in the islands.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Ka'imina'auao Wong

From: evita575@yahoo.com
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Legacy land commission meeting 88; item 2b on the agenda
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 3:38:53 PM

In regards to item 2b, Bella bond foundation, I am in opposition to this request.

This is not an area that should be “developed”.

Their proposal will cause unnecessary traffic and footprint in the mountains. They will cause unnecessary traffic in the neighborhood. Cause harm to the local topography and wildlife and noise pollution.

No survey is presented and may cause erosion to the area and present danger to the homes below.

This is not an entity that is from Hawaii or for Hawaii. This is a horrible idea and again, as a resident of koolaupoko, I am not in favor of approving this application for land and or funding.

Sincerely,
Olan Uluwehi Evita Felix
Resident of Kane’ohe
(808)224-1010
Evita575@yahoo.com

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

‘O Ke‘alohikikaupe‘aokamakawelikike‘ekapu Reppun ko‘u inoa. My name memorializes a family mo‘olelo of our kupuna’s arrival at what is now known as Ke‘alohi point, or He‘eiatea State Park, a place that through my name, I hold kuleana for. Additionally, on my father’s side, through my Haole genealogy, I grew up playing on the slopes of Mā‘eli‘eli in the steep and treacherous terrain that was, and continues to be the back yard of my ‘ohana home which we have dutifully maintained as conservation land.

Today, I am writing on behalf of my family and myself to express our strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation’s application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed “nature sanctuary” on Pu‘u Mā‘eli‘eli ridge in Kahalu‘u, Hawai‘i. Our family has lived on this ridge for generations and continues to reside here, respecting the division of space between the wao kanaka (the realm for people) and the wao akua (realm of the gods) in the development of our home, and in the interaction as this space’s stewards, for this time. As individuals with expertise in conservation, education, farming, and community advocacy, we urge the Commission to recognize the lack of respect, knowledge, understanding, and care for kuleana, stewardship and conservation that is obvious in this application.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain unspoiled for future generations. Bella Bond’s proposal, however, prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure under the guise of conservation. Their lack of a tangible stewardship plan—no commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or engaging in meaningful cultural preservation—speaks volumes. This is not a conservation project; it’s a commercial Trojan horse.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of responsible land stewardship, yet the Bella Bond Foundation’s approach has been anything but transparent. Their minimal efforts, limited to flyers and vague mentions of brunches, insult the intelligence and dignity of our community. Where are the conversations with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or the residents who will be most impacted by this development? The absence of true community involvement underscores the deceptive nature of this proposal.

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We deeply appreciate the Commission’s commitment to protecting Hawai‘i’s conservation lands and the transparent process you provide for public input. We respectfully call upon you to uphold the mission and vision of the Land

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Thank you for your time, diligence, and dedication to stewarding Hawai'i's precious natural resources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ke'alohe M. Reppun', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ke'alohe M. Reppun
kikaupea@gmail.com
(808) 987-9768

Addendum to Letter Opposing Bella Bond Foundation Proposal

Detailed Arguments and Supporting Questions

Misalignment with the Mission of Land Legacy Conservation Funds

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From: [Larry Grasse](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 4:01:20 PM

January 27, 2025

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Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Sincerely,

Larry Grasse

From: [Mahina Akimoto Reppun](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pu'u Mā'eli'eli Testimony
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 4:08:42 PM

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission Department of Land and Natural Resources Division
of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing on behalf of my family and myself to express our strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. Our family has lived on this ridge for generations and continues to reside here, with a deep connection to its land, history, and cultural significance. As individuals with expertise in conservation, education, farming, and community advocacy, we urge the Commission to reject this application.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain unspoiled for future generations. Bella Bond's proposal, however, prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure under the guise of conservation. Their lack of a tangible stewardship plan—no commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or engaging in meaningful cultural preservation—speaks volumes. This is not a conservation project; it's a commercial Trojan horse.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of responsible land stewardship, yet the Bella Bond Foundation's approach has been anything but transparent. Their minimal efforts, limited to flyers and vague mentions of brunches, insult the intelligence and dignity of our community. Where are the conversations with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or the residents who will be most impacted by this development? The absence of true community involvement underscores the deceptive nature of this proposal. The foundation's financial filings raise serious red flags. Their Form 990 reveals a sudden revenue increase to over \$500,000, with minimal programmatic spending of just \$19,626 and disproportionate administrative costs spent on travel and accommodations.

Even more concerning is their lack of employees and only one reported volunteer, which raises significant doubts about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. Moreover, the individuals listed as the Foundation's leaders are nearly impossible to verify through any meaningful public records or professional profiles. How does an organization with such opaque leadership and financial practices expect to gain the community's trust?

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is not just a piece of land; it is a vital part of our community's cultural heritage, environmental health, and resilience. Preserving this 'āina is critical to public health, particularly for Native Hawaiians, whose ancestral ties to the land are a source of identity and healing in the face of historical trauma. To allow such a deceptive and poorly planned project to proceed would be a disservice to this community and to the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program. We deeply appreciate the Commission's commitment to protecting

Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process you provide for public input.

We respectfully call upon you to uphold the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program by rejecting this application. Together, we can ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for the health and well-being of the land and its people. Thank you for your time, diligence, and dedication to stewarding Hawai'i's precious natural resources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional information as needed.

Mahina Reppun

(808)728-2991

From: [kellee hearther](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2B Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary-Bella Bond Foundation
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 4:17:07 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Kellee Hearther and I am writing from my home in 'Aiea, 'Ewa, O'ahu. I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. A cursory look at the proposal should be enough

for the commission to know that this just isn't right. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Kellee Hearther

From: [Deborah Baker](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written testimony for LLC Commission meeting 88 Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 4:17:26 PM

My name is Dr. Deborah Baker, 47-156 Iuiu St, which abuts the conservation land that is under consideration for the Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary. I have lived here for almost 15 years and this is the third time this conservation land is being considered for some kind of construction. I **vehemently** oppose this current proposal for a "Nature Sanctuary". This proposal, under the guise of the phrase "Nature Sanctuary," is clearly intended as a place to attract tourists which will be destructive to nature in all its forms. This clearing of the land and the intended construction will pose a serious threat to the safety of the homes on Iuiu Street, particularly during conditions of very heavy rains or hurricanes. This quiet neighborhood and street is not designed for the heavy traffic that this place will attract and it will also cause serious traffic congestion on the narrow stretch of Kam Highway that runs parallel to it. I fear it will turn into the kind of nightmare that the residents of Lanikai have to deal with.

Conservation means - careful preservation and protection. This proposal destroys and does not preserve or protect. It also shows a fundamental disrespect for the Native Hawaiian spirits and souls that are part of the land. In closing, I find it appalling that the Bella Bond Foundation would ask for funds to build something that will be so destructive to the land and the neighborhood in order to make more money for themselves.

Please, please preserve and protect the land!

Aloha,
Deborah

From: [Nick LoCicero](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DLNR DOFAW LLCC Written Testimony for Meeting 88
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 4:23:04 PM

Aloha DLNR DOFAW Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am submitting written testimony for DLNR DOFAW LLCC Meeting 88 scheduled for Wednesday January 29, 2025 at 9:30AM HST. I am writing in opposition of applicant Bella Bond Foundation. I oppose the request by Bella Bond Foundation to develop a Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary on Pu'u Ma'eli'eli. I oppose Bella Bond Foundation's request for land acquisition of TMK parcel (1) 4-7-001:002 for 131 acres on Pu'u Ma'eli'eli.

Bella Bond Foundation's proposed eco-tourism village on top of Pu'u Ma'eli'eli does not have any direct tie to the conservation of the ecology and lands of the area, nor does it have any tie to the local community. The organization does not have a history of work in He'eia/Kahalu'u/Kane'ohe area. According to their website, the organization does not appear to have a connection to Hawai'i--with no organization members or leadership located in Hawai'i, and no history of any previous work in Hawai'i. I do not believe that Bella Bond Foundation will be a good land steward of this parcel.

According to the [Bella Bond Foundation Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary proposal](#), they are proposing to develop 10 treehouses, multiple trails, and a 2-acre farm in the area. The proposed project has no direct tie to the conservation of the flora and fauna in the area and no tie to local community benefits. Developed treehouses and trails will be offered for reservation only at specified times. The proposal also states that Kahalu'u Heiau is part of the sanctuary area, and they must "learn more about its history before presenting it to the public." They clearly do not have an understanding of Native Hawaiian culture and history, and they do not have a relationship with the local community.

They appear to be proposing a capitalistic tourism development under the guise of environmental sustainability and conservation. The proposed trail and treehouse development does not contribute to the conservation and restoration of the native forest trees on Pu'u Ma'eli'eli. Rather, their proposed development appears to serve personal financial gain and private interests. Additionally, the AI-generated images and language in the proposal are not rooted in the reality of the area and the community. Based on the AI-generated images/text, grammatical/spelling errors, and logical errors on their website and proposal, they even appear to be a potential scam organization.

Mahalo,

Nickolas LoCicero

From: [Jay Stone](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DLNR DOFAW LLCC Written Testimony for Meeting 88
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 4:44:34 PM

Aloha DLNR DOFAW Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am submitting written testimony for DLNR DOFAW LLCC Meeting 88 scheduled for Wednesday January 29, 2025 at 9:30AM HST. I am writing in opposition of applicant Bella Bond Foundation. I oppose the request by Bella Bond Foundation to develop a Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary on Pu'u Ma'eli'eli. I oppose Bella Bond Foundation's request for land acquisition of TMK parcel (1) 4-7-001:002 for 131 acres on Pu'u Ma'eli'eli.

I am from the ahupua'a of He'eia. I am born and raised in Hawai'i. I have lived in windward O'ahu my entire life. For the last 27 years, I have lived in Ahuimanu in Kāne'ohe. I live on the mauka side of Pu'u Ma'eli'eli, and my family's home borders the forest. I hike Pu'u Ma'eli'eli trail, and I have seen the few 'ōhi'a lehua trees remaining. I am very familiar with the area, and I am a member of the community, and I strongly oppose the Bella Bond Foundation grant application from the land conservation fund.

Bella Bond Foundation's proposed eco-tourism village on top of Pu'u Ma'eli'eli does not have any direct tie to the conservation of the ecology and lands of the area, nor does it have any tie to the local community. The organization does not have a history of work in He'eia/Kahalu'u/Kane'ohe area, Ko'olau piko According to their website, the organization does not appear to have a connection to Hawai'i--with no organization members or leadership located in Hawai'i, and no history of any previous work in Hawai'i. I do not believe that Bella Bond Foundation will be a good land steward of this parcel.

According to the [Bella Bond Foundation Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary proposal](#), they are proposing to develop 10 treehouses, multiple trails, and a 2-acre farm in the area. The proposed project has no direct tie to the conservation of the flora and fauna in the area and no tie to local community benefits. Developed treehouses and trails will be offered for reservation only at specified times. The proposal also states that Kahalu'u Heiau is part of the sanctuary area, and they must "learn more about its history before presenting it to the public." They clearly do not have an understanding of Native Hawaiian culture and history, and they do not have a relationship with the local community.

They appear to be proposing a capitalistic tourism development under the guise of environmental sustainability and conservation. The proposed trail and treehouse development does not contribute to the conservation and restoration of the native forest trees on Pu'u Ma'eli'eli. Rather, their proposed development appears to serve personal financial gain and private interests. Additionally, the AI-generated images and language in the proposal are not rooted in the reality of the area and the community. Based on the AI-generated images/text, grammatical/spelling errors, and logical errors on their website and proposal, they even appear to be a potential scam organization.

In addition, publicly available records indicate that Bella Bond Foundation has three key employees that receive \$0 in compensation. <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/851388022>

This same record indicates revenue of over \$500K with assets of over \$500K but only expenses of \$21K and zero liabilities.

The proposed Bella Bond Foundation does not appear to have the resources to adequately protect the parcel's natural resources or implement the proposed development.

Sent from my iPhone

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Linda, and I am from Kahalu'u. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in

aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

I also did some research on the organization Bella Bond, who is submitting the proposal. It seemed like it has failed to file their 990 returns for two years, and with the previous years, there were only 990 EZ forms filed. These are forms for organizations with annual income under \$50K, which is concerning when the organization is requesting such a large sum of public funding that exceeds its recorded operating budget.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Linda Kuo
Director / Dancers Unlimited

January 27, 2025

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Rob Lee, and I am from Kaneohe/Kahalu'u, residing here for over 55 years since moving from Kailua in 1970. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a Nature Sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impact this project could have on our community, our environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.


The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to **reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary** project in its current form. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.


Robert (Rob) S.K. Lee III, CMSgt (ret), HIANG
47-493 Hui Kelu Street, Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing on behalf of my Reppun family and myself to express our strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. Our family has lived on this ridge for 66 of the 105 years the family has lived in these islands. Members of the family continue to reside here, with a deep connection to its land, history, and cultural significance. As individuals with expertise in conservation, education, farming, and community advocacy, we urge the Commission to reject this application.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain unspoiled for future generations. Bella Bond's proposal, however, prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure under the guise of conservation. Their lack of a tangible stewardship plan—no commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or engaging in meaningful cultural preservation—speaks volumes. This is not a conservation project; it's a commercial Trojan horse.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of responsible land stewardship, yet the Bella Bond Foundation's approach has been anything but transparent. Their minimal efforts, limited to flyers and vague mentions of brunches, insult the intelligence and dignity of our community. Where are the conversations with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or the residents who will be most impacted by this development? The absence of true community involvement underscores the deceptive nature of this proposal.

The foundation's financial filings raise serious red flags. Their Form 990 reveals a sudden revenue increase to over \$500,000, with minimal programmatic spending of just \$19,626 and disproportionate administrative costs spent on travel and accommodations. Even more concerning is their lack of employees and only one reported volunteer, which raises significant doubts about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. Moreover, the individuals listed as the Foundation's

leaders are nearly impossible to verify through any meaningful public records or professional profiles. How does an organization with such opaque leadership and financial practices expect to gain the community's trust?

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is not just a piece of land; it is a vital part of our community's cultural heritage, environmental health, and resilience. Preserving this 'āina is critical to public health, particularly for Native Hawaiians, whose ancestral ties to the land are a source of identity and healing in the face of historical trauma. To allow such a deceptive and poorly planned project to proceed would be a disservice to this community and to the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program.

We deeply appreciate the Commission's commitment to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process you provide for public input. We respectfully call upon you to uphold the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program by rejecting this application. Together, we can ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and dedication to stewarding Hawai'i's precious natural resources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

Joshua Engel Reppun
1544 Kalaniwai Place
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821
808.342.0504

From: [Uluwehi Buholm](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] LLCC - Proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 5:28:04 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Uluwehi, and I am from Ka'alaea, Oahu. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. The long-term preservation of this sacred place

depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Uluwehi Buholm

Prepared testimony of Kahiau Wallace
Ko'olauloa Community Member
In OPPOSITION to Bella Bond/Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary
Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Lā 27 o Ianuali, 2025

Aloha nui kākou!

My name is Kahiau Wallace. I am a kupa'aina, a citizen and a child, of Ko'olau, O'ahu. I call Kahana, Ko'olauloa, O'ahu my home, and as a community member of Ko'olau I have been fortunate to work and learn in the neighboring ahupua'a of my moku or district, Ko'olauloa. I have worked for many years in the ahupua'a of He'eia with 'āina (land) organizations such as Paepae o He'eia, Papahana Kuaola, Hui Kū Maoli Ola, and Kāko'o 'Ōiwi. I also taught for some time at Ke Kula 'o Samuel Mānaiakalani Kamakau. Many of the people I have worked with, and teachers I have learned from in He'eia are residents of Kahalu'u who are active in the health and well-being of their 'āina (land), and their community.

My 'ohana and I are inspired by organizations in Kahalu'u that remain steadfast in their work to uplift their community and hold spaces for generational knowledge transfer through hands-on work, and consistent gathering of kūpuna (elders), mākua (adults), and keiki (children). These Kahalu'u-based organizations include Key Project, Waihapakai, and Keahiakahoe Canoe Club, and Kahalu'u Kuaheua. It was a surprise to read that a new organization, Bella Bond, is seeking funds to create a Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary with no community interaction, no community outreach, no community building, and no community backing. Though they promote a safe space for the community, Bella Bond has no foundation in the community, and has wrongfully used images of community members in what little information they have put out to the public. Auē!

I am in OPPOSITION to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission supporting this organization, Bella Bond/Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary, for the reasons stated above. Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Na'u nō me ke aloha,



Kahiau Wallace

From: [Will Reppun](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pu'u Mā'eli'eli / Bella Bond
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 5:38:52 PM

January 27, 2025

Ref: Meeting #88, agenda item 2.B.

Casually: I hope you hold hearings for all applicants, and that Bella Bond has *not* passed any initial screenings. Because from a 5 minute perusal of their website it is clear that the foundation is vaporware, and is not in any way connected to our community, or even Hawai'i in general (see: all the fake projects they claim to be running). Even if there is some loose connection, the general vibes on their site? SUPER SKETCHY.

More formally:

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

Formally: I am writing on behalf of my family and myself to express our strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mffā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. Our family has lived on this ridge for generations and continues to reside here, with a deep connection to its land, history, and cultural significance. As individuals with expertise in conservation, education, farming, and community advocacy, we urge the Commission to reject this application.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain unspoiled for future generations. Bella Bond's proposal, however, prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure under the guise of conservation. Their lack of a tangible stewardship plan—no commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or engaging in meaningful cultural preservation—speaks volumes. This is not a conservation project; it's a commercial Trojan horse.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of responsible land stewardship, yet the Bella Bond Foundation's approach has been anything but transparent. Their minimal efforts, limited to flyers and vague mentions of brunches, insult the intelligence and dignity of our community. Where are the conversations with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or the residents who will be most impacted by this development? The absence of true community involvement underscores the deceptive nature of this proposal.

The foundation's financial filings raise serious red flags. Their Form 990 reveals a sudden revenue increase to over \$500,000, with minimal programmatic spending of just \$19,626 and disproportionate administrative costs spent on travel and accommodations. Even more concerning is their lack of employees and only one reported volunteer, which raises significant doubts about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. Moreover, the individuals listed as the Foundation's leaders are nearly impossible to verify through any meaningful public records or professional profiles. How does an organization with such opaque leadership and financial practices expect to gain the community's trust?

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is not just a piece of land; it is a vital part of our community's cultural heritage, environmental health, and resilience. Preserving this 'āina is critical to public health, particularly for Native Hawaiians, whose ancestral ties to the land are a source of identity and healing in the face of historical trauma. To allow such a deceptive and poorly planned project to proceed would be a disservice to this

community and to the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program.

We deeply appreciate the Commission's commitment to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process you provide for public input. We respectfully call upon you to uphold the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program by rejecting this application. Together, we can ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and dedication to stewarding Hawai'i's precious natural resources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

William Kanekoa Reppun
(808) 728 7779
reppun@gmail.com

Addendum:

Addendum to Letter Opposing Bella Bond Foundation Proposal

Detailed Arguments and Supporting Questions

Misalignment with the Mission of Land Legacy Conservation Funds

The Bella Bond Foundation's proposal does not align with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, which emphasizes the preservation of lands with significant environmental, cultural, and community value. Instead, the proposal prioritizes infrastructure for eco-tourism, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, with no detailed plans for stewardship of the land.

Key Concerns:

- The lack of commitments to managing invasive species, planting native species, or preserving cultural landmarks undermines the conservation goals of the program.
- The inclusion of eco-tourism elements suggests a profit-driven motive disguised as conservation.

Questions:

1. How does the proposed infrastructure align with the conservation goals of the Land Legacy Conservation Program?
2. Why was the application not dismissed for lacking a robust stewardship plan?
3. What specific actions will the foundation take to ensure ecological preservation?

Lack of Community Engagement and Partnerships

Community engagement is essential for successful land stewardship. The Bella Bond Foundation's minimal efforts—limited to flyers and vague mentions of community brunches—demonstrate a lack of genuine interest in involving the local community or its stakeholders.

Key Concerns:

- No evidence of partnerships with local conservation experts, cultural practitioners, or organizations.
- The absence of meaningful consultation undermines the credibility of their claims of community benefit.

Questions:

1. What local organizations, cultural practitioners, or conservation experts have they partnered with?
2. How has the community been consulted prior to the submission of this application?
3. How does the foundation plan to involve the community in the ongoing management of the site?

Environmental and Cultural Impact

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile ecosystem with steep terrain that makes it unsuitable for farming or heavy infrastructure. The area also holds significant cultural value, and its conservation zoning reflects the need to preserve it for future generations.

Key Concerns:

- Farming on steep terrain could lead to erosion and environmental degradation.
- Development poses a threat to cultural sites and native ecosystems.

Questions:

1. How will the foundation address the risks of erosion associated with farming and infrastructure development?
2. What measures are in place to protect cultural sites and native ecosystems from disruption?
3. How does the proposal honor the cultural and historical significance of the ridge?

Financial Transparency and Viability

The Bella Bond Foundation's financial history raises serious concerns about their capacity to manage a project of this scale. Their Form 990 shows a dramatic revenue increase to over \$500,000, but their expenditures include minimal programmatic spending and disproportionately high administrative costs.

Key Concerns:

- Only \$19,626 was spent on program services, with significant funds allocated to travel and accommodations.
- The foundation lists no employees and only one volunteer, calling into question their operational capacity.
- The individuals listed as leaders of the foundation are difficult to verify through public records or professional profiles.

Questions:

1. How does the foundation justify its disproportionate spending on administrative costs and travel?
2. Why is there no evidence of active programs or initiatives tied to their stated mission?
3. Can the foundation demonstrate financial and operational capacity to sustain a project of this scale?

Increased Neighborhood Traffic and Disturbance

The proposed development would attract significant traffic to the area without providing adequate plans for parking or transportation management. This could disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's ecosystem.

Key Concerns:

- The reliance on rideshare services (e.g., Uber, Lyft) as a transportation plan is unrealistic and unsustainable.
- Increased traffic may lead to noise pollution, safety issues, and environmental harm.

Questions:

1. What transportation and parking plans are in place for visitors and staff?
2. How will the foundation mitigate the impact of increased traffic on the neighborhood?
3. What steps will be taken to ensure transportation plans align with conservation goals?

Misrepresentation of Sustainability

While the foundation claims to prioritize sustainability, the proposal's focus on infrastructure suggests otherwise. The emphasis on eco-tourism revenue undermines their claims of minimal environmental impact.

Key Concerns:

- The heavy focus on infrastructure is inconsistent with genuine sustainability efforts.
- No detailed plans for long-term ecological monitoring or land management.

Questions:

1. What is the foundation's definition of sustainability, and how does this proposal align with it?
2. How will the proposed infrastructure avoid degrading the land's natural state?

3. What are the long-term plans for ecological monitoring and maintenance?

From: [Ryan Chang](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 2.B
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 5:57:09 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Ryan Chang, and I am from Kaimukī, Kapahulu I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Ryan Chang

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing on behalf of my family and myself to express our strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. Our family has lived on this ridge for generations and continues to reside here, with a deep connection to its land, history, and cultural significance. As individuals with expertise in conservation, education, farming, and community advocacy, we urge the Commission to reject this application.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain unspoiled for future generations. Bella Bond's proposal, however, prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure under the guise of conservation. Their lack of a tangible stewardship plan—no commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or engaging in meaningful cultural preservation—speaks volumes. This is not a conservation project; it's a commercial Trojan horse.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of responsible land stewardship, yet the Bella Bond Foundation's approach has been anything but transparent. Their minimal efforts, limited to flyers and vague mentions of brunches, insult the intelligence and dignity of our community. Where are the conversations with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or the residents who will be most impacted by this development? The absence of true community involvement underscores the deceptive nature of this proposal.

The foundation's financial filings raise serious red flags. Their Form 990 reveals a sudden revenue increase to over \$500,000, with minimal programmatic spending of just \$19,626 and disproportionate administrative costs spent on travel and accommodations. Even more concerning is their lack of employees and only one reported volunteer, which raises significant doubts about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. Moreover, the individuals listed as the Foundation's leaders are nearly impossible to verify through any meaningful public records or professional profiles. How does an organization with such opaque leadership and financial practices expect to gain the community's trust?

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is not just a piece of land; it is a vital part of our community's cultural heritage, environmental health, and resilience. Preserving this 'āina is critical to public health, particularly for Native Hawaiians, whose ancestral ties to the land are a source of identity and healing in the face of historical trauma. To allow such a deceptive and poorly planned project to proceed would be a disservice to this community and to the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program.

We deeply appreciate the Commission's commitment to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process you provide for public input. We respectfully call upon you to uphold the mission and

vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program by rejecting this application. Together, we can ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and dedication to stewarding Hawai'i's precious natural resources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

Alika Reppun
alika.reppun@gmail.com
3114 East Manoa Rd Apt B
Honolulu, HI 96822

Addendum to Letter Opposing Bella Bond Foundation Proposal

Detailed Arguments and Supporting Questions

Misalignment with the Mission of Land Legacy Conservation Funds

The Bella Bond Foundation's proposal does not align with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, which emphasizes the preservation of lands with significant environmental, cultural, and community value. Instead, the proposal prioritizes infrastructure for eco-tourism, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, with no detailed plans for stewardship of the land.

Key Concerns:

- The lack of commitments to managing invasive species, planting native species, or preserving cultural landmarks undermines the conservation goals of the program.
- The inclusion of eco-tourism elements suggests a profit-driven motive disguised as conservation.

Questions:

1. How does the proposed infrastructure align with the conservation goals of the Land Legacy Conservation Program?
2. Why was the application not dismissed for lacking a robust stewardship plan?
3. What specific actions will the foundation take to ensure ecological preservation?

Lack of Community Engagement and Partnerships

Community engagement is essential for successful land stewardship. The Bella Bond Foundation's minimal efforts—limited to flyers and vague mentions of community brunches—demonstrate a lack of genuine interest in involving the local community or its stakeholders.

Key Concerns:

- No evidence of partnerships with local conservation experts, cultural practitioners, or organizations.
- The absence of meaningful consultation undermines the credibility of their claims of community benefit.

Questions:

1. What local organizations, cultural practitioners, or conservation experts have they partnered with?
2. How has the community been consulted prior to the submission of this application?
3. How does the foundation plan to involve the community in the ongoing management of the site?

Environmental and Cultural Impact

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile ecosystem with steep terrain that makes it unsuitable for farming or heavy infrastructure. The area also holds significant cultural value, and its conservation zoning reflects the need to preserve it for future generations.

Key Concerns:

- Farming on steep terrain could lead to erosion and environmental degradation.
- Development poses a threat to cultural sites and native ecosystems.

Questions:

1. How will the foundation address the risks of erosion associated with farming and infrastructure development?
2. What measures are in place to protect cultural sites and native ecosystems from disruption?
3. How does the proposal honor the cultural and historical significance of the ridge?

Financial Transparency and Viability

The Bella Bond Foundation's financial history raises serious concerns about their capacity to manage a project of this scale. Their Form 990 shows a dramatic revenue increase to over \$500,000, but their expenditures include minimal programmatic spending and disproportionately high administrative costs.

Key Concerns:

- Only \$19,626 was spent on program services, with significant funds allocated to travel and accommodations.
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- The individuals listed as leaders of the foundation are difficult to verify through public records or professional profiles.

Questions:

1. How does the foundation justify its disproportionate spending on administrative costs and travel?
2. Why is there no evidence of active programs or initiatives tied to their stated mission?
3. Can the foundation demonstrate financial and operational capacity to sustain a project of this scale?

Increased Neighborhood Traffic and Disturbance

The proposed development would attract significant traffic to the area without providing adequate plans for parking or transportation management. This could disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's ecosystem.

Key Concerns:

- The reliance on rideshare services (e.g., Uber, Lyft) as a transportation plan is unrealistic and unsustainable.

- Increased traffic may lead to noise pollution, safety issues, and environmental harm.

Questions:

1. What transportation and parking plans are in place for visitors and staff?
2. How will the foundation mitigate the impact of increased traffic on the neighborhood?
3. What steps will be taken to ensure transportation plans align with conservation goals?

Misrepresentation of Sustainability

While the foundation claims to prioritize sustainability, the proposal's focus on infrastructure suggests otherwise. The emphasis on eco-tourism revenue undermines their claims of minimal environmental impact.

Key Concerns:

- The heavy focus on infrastructure is inconsistent with genuine sustainability efforts.
- No detailed plans for long-term ecological monitoring or land management.

Questions:

1. What is the foundation's definition of sustainability, and how does this proposal align with it?
2. How will the proposed infrastructure avoid degrading the land's natural state?
3. What are the long-term plans for ecological monitoring and maintenance?

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Lee Ann Ānuenuē Pūnua and I am from Kāneʻohe, Koʻolaupoko. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Puʻu Māʻeliʻeli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the moʻolelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka ʻōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahaluʻu Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

I would also like to bring attention to the fact that an advertisement video done on behalf of Bella Bond Foundation promoting the welfare of single and widowed mothers was being circulated today 01/27/2025. In this video there were video clips of my daughter's and I making lei together. This was NOT AUTHORIZED by myself or the filmmaker of the original footage taken 4 years ago. This brings much concern to the validity of this organization and project.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Puʻu Māʻeliʻeli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Lee Ann Ānuenue Pūnua
Community Member, Ko'olaupoko

From: [Brittany Dayton](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Kahalu'u Ecovillage
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:57:23 PM

Aloha,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed "ecovillage" project in Kahalu'u. Coming from the Hawai'i Island, I have seen enough similar type projects like these to know they are not marketed towards locals. These are for new age, off grid, "heal my trauma" kine people seeking alternative lifestyles. I do not think it is right for any non-native Hawaiian person, or organization, to be allowed to gain access to native lands or funding for the acquisition of Hawaiian lands. Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands!

Mahalo piha,

Brittany Chambrella

From: [Seb C](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:15:56 PM

Aloha mai,

I am respectfully writing as a resident of O'ahu and hoā 'āina to Kō'olaupoko, that the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary be rejected outright.

It is clear from materials from the developers that the developers are not attuned to Hawaiian issues, nor to the environment they propose to build on. Construction of the facility would have significantly negative environmental and community impacts. The construction of a warehouse and 2 miles of boardwalks, as well as unprecedented traffic would disturb underlying vegetation and habitat. It is apparent from the flyer that it was not created in collaboration with the Kahalu'u community as a whole. Increasing tourism traffic to Kahalu'u and the windward side would cause unforeseeable environmental degradation and place additional stress on municipal infrastructure that is already in need of improvement.

Hawai'i needs more projects dedicated to food sovereignty in order to alleviate the threat of food insecurity for local people, per numerous bills and proclamations from previous administrations. According to the USGS Web Soil Survey, the high plasticity, slope/grade, and water retention capacity of the soils on this site make it poorly suited for agriculture and construction. The erosion hazard for most of the area in the proposal is very severe and agricultural use is not recommended. The nature of the soils also make the site unsuitable for construction, as the soil is rated highly corrosive to both concrete and steel. It is clear from a simple assessment of the soils in this area, that this project will not achieve the agricultural goals it sets out without exorbitant investment and intense disturbance of the environment.

Please reject this project, and instead invest in Kanaka 'Oiwi led projects to restore the biocultural landscape of Hawai'i through local community-led actions and efforts.

Mahalo nui,

Sebastian Church
PhD Student
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Aimee Sato and I live in and help steward the ahupua‘a of Kahalu‘u, and work in the neighboring ahupua‘a of He‘eia, and I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to Agenda Item 2.B, requested under the title of Kahalu‘u Nature Sanctuary. I hope that everyone on the Commission has just a few minutes to scroll through their website, as a quick look will provide alarming red flags.

There are many reasons to oppose the Kahalu‘u Nature Sanctuary Project, however I will highlight some main points through the content below that was provided by the Bella Bond Foundation to the Commission.

1. Kahalu‘u Nature Sanctuary Project Summary: The 8-page brochure shows only AI generated images, while any photos that show the physical place of Kahalu‘u is from the property listing. Which tells me that this group proposed a 6,000,000 square feet project in the Kahalu‘u community without once engaging with the community. To this day, this proposal never came to the Kahalu‘u Neighborhood Board. Not to mention their website that has the same AI/Google photos, while the only video that shows people of Hawai‘i have been stolen from other projects.
2. Site Heiau Report: The Heiau report is provided as a summary from 3 individuals (2 from Bella Bound Foundation, and 1 Real Estate Agent) that have no experience in archaeology, or cultural knowledge. The letter from Scientific Consultant Services only shares intentions to do a site visit, mapping and recording of the site. Nowhere is it proposed in their “in-depth” research that will consult cultural experts and lineal descendants. They state in their intentions that they would restore the heiau. This group has no experience or permission to do such a thing.
3. Testimony and Signatures from Neighbors: In Bella Bounds letter it says, “these documents reflects the collaborative efforts of community members, cultural experts, environmentalists, and neighbors.” From my (1, 2) points above we already know that community members and cultural experts were NOT involved. It seems there are a grand total of 2 letters of support from Kahalu‘u neighbors. It says that 78 signatures were gathered from the Hawaiian community. This also shows lack of education and knowledge on what makes a “Hawaiian” community, and I would be curious to hear from these neighbors on what they believed that they were supporting by signing. And I would like to repeat again that the Kahalu‘u Neighborhood Board was not approached.
4. Plants and Flowers on the Land: There is an image in the brochure that says ‘Ōhi‘a Lehua that shows a fake AI photo that looks like an invasive ginger. I would be curious to know if anyone from the Bella Bound Foundation can correctly identify at least 5 Native (Indigenous or Endemic) plant species. We are meant to trust that they know how to use native plants for conservation?

As a woman, I would also like to express disgust that Bella Bound Foundation targets women (especially widowed and indigenous women), and children (with past focus on orphans), who are all very at risk and vulnerable groups. With no testimonies or proof provided that this group has helped these groups in the past and have kept people safe, I cannot support such a proposal. Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits.

Mahalo,

Aimee Sato

From: [Katherine Hachmeister](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 88, Agenda Item 2.B
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:37:22 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Katherine Hachmeister and I am from Honolulu. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Katherine Hachmeister

From: [Saxony Charlot](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition of Bella Bond Foundation development in Kahalu'u
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:55:01 PM

Aloha all members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing in to oppose agenda item 2.B. I oppose any funding, land acquisition, or other supports for the Bella Bond Foundation in developing a "nature sanctuary" in Kahalu'u. Despite the Bella Bond Foundation's attempts at greenwashing, their project does not present any meaningful evidence of providing benefit to local community or native habitat.

I do not believe that an ecotourist retreat has any justifiable reason for being located so close to heiau and other culturally-sensitive areas. I can find no reason to support this non-local organization attempting to develop such a large area of land in a community that has historically and presently been frustrated by projects such as this.

Thank you for your consideration.

Saxony Charlot
Conservationist/community member

From: [Nicole Mijares](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Development at Pu'u Ma'eli'eli
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:07:10 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Nicole Mijares, and I am from Kahalu'u. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Nicole Pomaikai Mijares

Sent from my iPhone

From: [luka zavas](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony NOT IN SUPPORT of Agenda Item 2.B. for Meeting 88
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:15:47 PM

Aloha kākou,

My name is Luka Zavas and I grew up in ‘Āhuimanu, Kahalu‘u. I ask that you **DO NOT SUPPORT/ APPROVE** the grant application by the Bella Bond Foundation for the Kahalu‘u Nature Sanctuary.

After researching, I am worried that this organization is not being upfront and truthful about its intentions. They claim to be building a space for women and children in need, but it seems more like a vacation getaway development to me. For example, while skimming their website, I noticed they are supported by large corporations, such as the Milton Hotel Resort Inc., but not by local organizations currently working to support their target demographic or within the sustainability sector. Their website features jargon and graphics that make it seem eco-friendly. Still, there is no mention of topics that are central to Hawaii Lifeways, such as caring for this space through an ‘ahupua‘a model or incorporating Hawaiian ‘āina stewardship.

Additionally, this organization and its leadership are not local (born, raised, or of Hawaiian descent) - and I do not believe they are prepared to care for a space with a Heiau and other cultural sites. A local community organization should care for this space. Let's put a stop to more of Hawai‘i's wahi pana being placed into the hands of developers and organizations that do not understand the kūleana that they are placing upon their shoulders.

Please **DO NOT SUPPORT/ APPROVE** the grant application by the Bella Bond Foundation for the Kahalu‘u Nature Sanctuary.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my thoughts.

Mahalo,
Luka Zavas

From: [Kelley Uyeoka](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on 2.B Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:33:02 PM

Aloha Legacy Land Commission,

I am writing to inform the LLCC that Nohopapa Hawai'i, LLC did not agree to conduct the Baseline Documentation Study for the Bella Bond Foundation. We were contacted by them in December, had one email exchange to gather more information, and then never provided a final response confirming our participation or support of their project.

It was highly inappropriate for the Bella Bond Foundation to use our name in their application without our consent.

We do not support this project and are not involved in any way.

Mahalo for getting this on the record.

Kelley Uyeoka and Kekuewa Kikiloi
Owners, Nohopapa Hawai'i, LLC

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Kelley Lehuakeaopuna Uyeoka
Nohopapa Hawai'i, LLC
Founding Partner
www.nohopapa.com

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing on behalf of my family and myself to express our strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. Our family has lived on this ridge for generations and continues to reside here, with a deep connection to its land, history, and cultural significance. As individuals with expertise in conservation, education, farming, and community advocacy, we urge the Commission to reject this application.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain unspoiled for future generations. Bella Bond's proposal, however, prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure under the guise of conservation. Their lack of a tangible stewardship plan—no commitments to preserving and restoring native plants, managing invasive species, preventing the establishment and spread of new invasive pests such as Little Fire Ant and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, or engaging in meaningful cultural preservation—speaks volumes. The proposal aims to circumvent the conservation zoning of this land, with no meaningful benefit to the land itself, or the community. This is not a conservation project; it's a commercial Trojan horse.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of responsible land stewardship, yet the Bella Bond Foundation's approach has been anything but transparent. Their minimal efforts, limited to flyers and vague mentions of brunches, insult the intelligence and dignity of our community. Where are the conversations with cultural practitioners, environmental stewards, or the residents who will be most impacted by this development? The absence of true community involvement underscores the deceptive nature of this proposal.

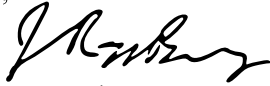
The foundation's financial filings raise serious red flags. Their Form 990 reveals a sudden revenue increase to over \$500,000, with minimal programmatic spending of just \$19,626 and disproportionate administrative costs spent on travel and accommodations. Even more concerning is their lack of employees and only one reported volunteer, which raises significant doubts about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. Moreover, the individuals listed as the Foundation's leaders are nearly impossible to verify through any meaningful public records or professional profiles. How does an organization with such opaque leadership and financial practices expect to gain the community's trust? Moreover, how does this ecotourism venture fit in with Bella Bond Foundation's goal of serving 'widows, single mothers, and orphans, as stated on their website? Bella Bond Foundation has no history or track record of land stewardship of any sort, conservation-based or ecotourism-based.

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is not just a piece of land; it is a vital part of our community's cultural heritage, environmental health, and resilience. Preserving this 'āina is critical to public health, particularly for Native Hawaiians, whose ancestral ties to the land are a source of identity and healing in the face of historical trauma. To allow such a deceptive and poorly planned project to proceed would be a disservice to this community and to the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program.

We deeply appreciate the Commission's commitment to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process you provide for public input. We respectfully call upon you to uphold the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program by rejecting this application. Together, we can ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and dedication to stewarding Hawai'i's precious natural resources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,



Jane Reppun Beachy

Cell: (808)783-6517

Email: jane_beachy@hotmail.com

Addendum to Letter Opposing Bella Bond Foundation Proposal

Detailed Arguments and Supporting Questions

Misalignment with the Mission of Land Legacy Conservation Funds

The Bella Bond Foundation's proposal does not align with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, which emphasizes the preservation of lands with significant environmental, cultural, and community value. Instead, the proposal prioritizes infrastructure for eco-tourism, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, with no detailed plans for stewardship of the land.

Key Concerns:

- The lack of commitments to managing invasive species, planting native species, or preserving cultural landmarks undermines the conservation goals of the program.
- The inclusion of eco-tourism elements suggests a profit-driven motive disguised as conservation.

Questions:

1. How does the proposed infrastructure align with the conservation goals of the Land Legacy Conservation Program?
2. Why was the application not dismissed for lacking a robust stewardship plan?
3. What specific actions will the foundation take to ensure ecological preservation?

Lack of Community Engagement and Partnerships

Community engagement is essential for successful land stewardship. The Bella Bond Foundation's minimal efforts—limited to flyers and vague mentions of community brunches—demonstrate a lack of genuine interest in involving the local community or its stakeholders.

Key Concerns:

- No evidence of partnerships with local conservation experts, cultural practitioners, or organizations.
- The absence of meaningful consultation undermines the credibility of their claims of community benefit.

Questions:

1. What local organizations, cultural practitioners, or conservation experts have they partnered with?
2. How has the community been consulted prior to the submission of this application?
3. How does the foundation plan to involve the community in the ongoing management of the site?

Environmental and Cultural Impact

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile ecosystem with steep terrain that makes it unsuitable for farming or heavy infrastructure. The area also holds significant cultural value, and its conservation zoning reflects the need to preserve it for future generations.

Key Concerns:

- Farming on steep terrain could lead to erosion and environmental degradation.
- Development poses a threat to cultural sites and native ecosystems.

Questions:

1. How will the foundation address the risks of erosion associated with farming and infrastructure development?
2. What measures are in place to protect cultural sites and native ecosystems from disruption?
3. How does the proposal honor the cultural and historical significance of the ridge?

Financial Transparency and Viability

The Bella Bond Foundation's financial history raises serious concerns about their capacity to manage a project of this scale. Their Form 990 shows a dramatic revenue increase to over \$500,000, but their expenditures include minimal programmatic spending and disproportionately high administrative costs.

Key Concerns:

- Only \$19,626 was spent on program services, with significant funds allocated to travel and accommodations.
- The foundation lists no employees and only one volunteer, calling into question their operational capacity.
- The individuals listed as leaders of the foundation are difficult to verify through public records or professional profiles.

Questions:

1. How does the foundation justify its disproportionate spending on administrative costs and travel?
2. Why is there no evidence of active programs or initiatives tied to their stated mission?
3. Can the foundation demonstrate financial and operational capacity to sustain a project of this scale?

Increased Neighborhood Traffic and Disturbance

The proposed development would attract significant traffic to the area without providing adequate plans for parking or transportation management. This could disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's ecosystem.

Key Concerns:

- The reliance on rideshare services (e.g., Uber, Lyft) as a transportation plan is unrealistic and unsustainable.
- Increased traffic may lead to noise pollution, safety issues, and environmental harm.

Questions:

1. What transportation and parking plans are in place for visitors and staff?
2. How will the foundation mitigate the impact of increased traffic on the neighborhood?
3. What steps will be taken to ensure transportation plans align with conservation goals?

Misrepresentation of Sustainability

While the foundation claims to prioritize sustainability, the proposal's focus on infrastructure suggests otherwise. The emphasis on eco-tourism revenue undermines their claims of minimal environmental impact.

Key Concerns:

- The heavy focus on infrastructure is inconsistent with genuine sustainability efforts.
- No detailed plans for long-term ecological monitoring or land management.

Questions:

1. What is the foundation's definition of sustainability, and how does this proposal align with it?
2. How will the proposed infrastructure avoid degrading the land's natural state?
3. What are the long-term plans for ecological monitoring and maintenance?

From: [Kainani Wagner](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 88
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:06:52 PM

Aloha,

My name is Kainani Wagner. I am born and raised in He'eia, O'ahu. I am in strong opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. proposed by Bella Bond Foundation. This project does not align with our community and will impact the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Kainani Wagner

From: [Kapua Kawelo](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] opposing bella bond foundation's application for LLCC funding, Maelieli Ridge project
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:12:08 PM

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325 Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing as a concerned native Hawaiian community member whose 'ohana has lived in Pakole below pu'u maelieli for generations. I am in strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. This project, as presented, raises significant concerns about its alignment with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program and the values it is intended to uphold.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain preserved for future generations. However, the Bella Bond Foundation's proposal prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, rather than genuine conservation efforts. Their lack of a detailed stewardship plan—including commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or preserving cultural landmarks—speaks volumes about the true intent behind this project. This is not a conservation initiative; it is a commercial development disguised as one.

Community engagement is a fundamental principle of responsible land stewardship. Yet, the Bella Bond Foundation has demonstrated minimal transparency and involvement with the local community. Their outreach appears limited to flyers and vague mentions of events, with no evidence of meaningful consultation with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or local residents who would be most affected by this development. Such a lack of genuine community involvement is deeply troubling and undermines the credibility of their proposal.

The financial history of the Bella Bond Foundation raises additional red flags. According to their Form 990, the foundation experienced a sudden increase in revenue to over \$500,000, yet only \$19,626 was spent on program services. Meanwhile, a disproportionate amount of funding was allocated to travel and accommodations, with no evidence of active programs or initiatives. Even more concerning is the lack of employees and the reliance on just one volunteer, raising serious questions about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. How can an organization with such opaque leadership and questionable financial practices be entrusted with conservation funds?

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile and culturally significant area that deserves to remain preserved. The proposed development threatens its delicate ecosystem and the cultural heritage it represents. Steep terrain, inadequate plans for farming and infrastructure, and the potential for environmental degradation are all significant risks. Additionally, increased traffic and a lack of clear transportation plans will disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's conservation value.

I deeply appreciate the Commission's dedication to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process provided for public input. I respectfully urge you to reject the Bella Bond Foundation's application and ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for its ecological, cultural, and community significance. By upholding the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, the Commission can safeguard this vital 'āina for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and commitment to preserving Hawai'i's precious natural resources.

Sincerely,

Kapua Kawelo

Kahalu'u Resident, 47-533 Melekula Rd Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Jobriath Rohrer](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: template re Bella Bond
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:14:08 PM

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission Department of
Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and
Wildlife 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325 Honolulu, HI
96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation
Commission,

I am writing as a concerned community member to express my strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. This project, as presented, raises significant concerns about its alignment with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program and the values it is intended to uphold.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain preserved for future generations. However, the Bella Bond Foundation's proposal prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, rather than genuine conservation efforts. Their lack of a detailed stewardship plan—including commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or preserving cultural landmarks—speaks volumes about the true intent behind this project. This is not a conservation initiative; it is a commercial development disguised as one.

Community engagement is a fundamental principle of responsible land stewardship. Yet, the Bella Bond Foundation has demonstrated minimal transparency and

involvement with the local community. Their outreach appears limited to flyers and vague mentions of events, with no evidence of meaningful consultation with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or local residents who would be most affected by this development. Such a lack of genuine community involvement is deeply troubling and undermines the credibility of their proposal.

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I deeply appreciate the Commission's dedication to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process provided for public input. I respectfully urge you to reject the Bella Bond Foundation's application and ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for its ecological, cultural, and community significance. By upholding the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, the Commission can safeguard this vital 'āina for the health

and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and commitment to preserving Hawai'i's precious natural resources.

Sincerely,

Joby Rohrer

Jobyrohrer@gmail.com

Kahalu'u valley resident

From: [Bethany Chun Comstock](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REJECT Agenda Item 2.B.
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:17:17 PM

To the Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission:

My name is Bethany Chun Comstock. I was born and raised in Kahaluu and now live in Heeia in the shade of Puu Maelieli. My family has been in this specific area for almost 100 years.

I am writing in OPPOSITION to Agenda Item 2.B., regarding the Kahaluu Nature Sanctuary project.

Firstly, I am alarmed by the proposal's claim of concern for the community when they currently have yet to engage the community in any meaningful way regarding the project.

I am also vehemently opposed to any endeavor to bring more tourists to our island and especially to our small community. Oahu has long been overrun with tourists, and the residents have no more appetite to accommodate them. The answer to sustainable tourism is not throwing money at developing more of our land for more so-called "sustainable" projects. We need to better manage what has already been created and keep the health of our communities in mind.

As an invested community member and native Hawaiian, my family and I are deeply concerned with the future of Kahaluu and Heeia. Puu Maelieli is a site of significant cultural and historical importance. The land and the bay are rapidly deteriorating, facing invasive species (flora, like haole koa and strawberry guava, and fauna, like feral cats, wild pigs, and chickens), increased human activity, and runoff into the water and onto the reefs. Outside landowners are not in a position to be proper stewards of our wahi pana (special places).

Please consider the voices of long time community members and ancestral residents who urge you to reject the project proposal of the Kahaluu Nature Sanctuary.

Mahalo,
Bethany K. Chun Comstock

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing on behalf of my family and myself to express our strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. Our family has lived on this ridge for generations and continues to reside here, with a deep connection to its land, history, and cultural significance. As individuals with expertise in conservation, education, farming, and community advocacy, we urge the Commission to reject this application.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain unspoiled for future generations. Bella Bond's proposal, however, prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure under the guise of conservation. Their lack of a tangible stewardship plan—no commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or engaging in meaningful cultural preservation—speaks volumes. This is not a conservation project; it's a commercial Trojan horse.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of responsible land stewardship, yet the Bella Bond Foundation's approach has been anything but transparent. Their minimal efforts, limited to flyers and vague mentions of brunches, insult the intelligence and dignity of our community. Where are the conversations with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or the residents who will be most impacted by this development? The absence of true community involvement underscores the deceptive nature of this proposal.

The foundation's financial filings raise serious red flags. Their Form 990 reveals a sudden revenue increase to over \$500,000, with minimal programmatic spending of just \$19,626 and disproportionate administrative costs spent on travel and accommodations. Even more concerning is their lack of employees and only one reported volunteer, which raises significant doubts about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. Moreover, the individuals listed as the Foundation's leaders are nearly impossible to verify through any meaningful public records or professional profiles. How does an organization with such opaque leadership and financial practices expect to gain the community's trust?

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is not just a piece of land; it is a vital part of our community's cultural heritage, environmental health, and resilience. Preserving this 'āina is critical to public health, particularly for Native Hawaiians, whose ancestral ties to the land are a source of identity and healing in the face of historical trauma. To allow such a deceptive and poorly planned project to proceed would be a disservice to this community and to the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program.

We deeply appreciate the Commission's commitment to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process you provide for public input. We respectfully call upon you to uphold the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program by rejecting this application. Together, we can ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and dedication to stewarding Hawai'i's precious natural resources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

Olga Y. Reppun
(808) 679-5827
oreppun@gmail.com

Addendum to Letter Opposing Bella Bond Foundation Proposal

Detailed Arguments and Supporting Questions

Misalignment with the Mission of Land Legacy Conservation Funds

The Bella Bond Foundation's proposal does not align with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, which emphasizes the preservation of lands with significant environmental, cultural, and community value. Instead, the proposal prioritizes infrastructure for eco-tourism, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, with no detailed plans for stewardship of the land.

Key Concerns:

- The lack of commitments to managing invasive species, planting native species, or preserving cultural landmarks undermines the conservation goals of the program.
- The inclusion of eco-tourism elements suggests a profit-driven motive disguised as conservation.

Questions:

1. How does the proposed infrastructure align with the conservation goals of the Land Legacy Conservation Program?
2. Why was the application not dismissed for lacking a robust stewardship plan?
3. What specific actions will the foundation take to ensure ecological preservation?

Lack of Community Engagement and Partnerships

Community engagement is essential for successful land stewardship. The Bella Bond Foundation's minimal efforts—limited to flyers and vague mentions of community brunches—demonstrate a lack of genuine interest in involving the local community or its stakeholders.

Key Concerns:

- No evidence of partnerships with local conservation experts, cultural practitioners, or organizations.
- The absence of meaningful consultation undermines the credibility of their claims of community benefit.

Questions:

1. What local organizations, cultural practitioners, or conservation experts have they partnered with?
2. How has the community been consulted prior to the submission of this application?
3. How does the foundation plan to involve the community in the ongoing management of the site?

Environmental and Cultural Impact

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile ecosystem with steep terrain that makes it unsuitable for farming or heavy infrastructure. The area also holds significant cultural value, and its conservation zoning reflects the need to preserve it for future generations.

Key Concerns:

- Farming on steep terrain could lead to erosion and environmental degradation.
- Development poses a threat to cultural sites and native ecosystems.

Questions:

1. How will the foundation address the risks of erosion associated with farming and infrastructure development?
2. What measures are in place to protect cultural sites and native ecosystems from disruption?
3. How does the proposal honor the cultural and historical significance of the ridge?

Financial Transparency and Viability

The Bella Bond Foundation's financial history raises serious concerns about their capacity to manage a project of this scale. Their Form 990 shows a dramatic revenue increase to over \$500,000, but their expenditures include minimal programmatic spending and disproportionately high administrative costs.

Key Concerns:

- Only \$19,626 was spent on program services, with significant funds allocated to travel and accommodations.
- The foundation lists no employees and only one volunteer, calling into question their operational capacity.
- The individuals listed as leaders of the foundation are difficult to verify through public records or professional profiles.

Questions:

1. How does the foundation justify its disproportionate spending on administrative costs and travel?
2. Why is there no evidence of active programs or initiatives tied to their stated mission?
3. Can the foundation demonstrate financial and operational capacity to sustain a project of this scale?

Increased Neighborhood Traffic and Disturbance

The proposed development would attract significant traffic to the area without providing adequate plans for parking or transportation management. This could disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's ecosystem.

Key Concerns:

- The reliance on rideshare services (e.g., Uber, Lyft) as a transportation plan is unrealistic and unsustainable.
- Increased traffic may lead to noise pollution, safety issues, and environmental harm.

Questions:

1. What transportation and parking plans are in place for visitors and staff?
2. How will the foundation mitigate the impact of increased traffic on the neighborhood?
3. What steps will be taken to ensure transportation plans align with conservation goals?

Misrepresentation of Sustainability

While the foundation claims to prioritize sustainability, the proposal's focus on infrastructure suggests otherwise. The emphasis on eco-tourism revenue undermines their claims of minimal environmental impact.

Key Concerns:

- The heavy focus on infrastructure is inconsistent with genuine sustainability efforts.
- No detailed plans for long-term ecological monitoring or land management.

Questions:

1. What is the foundation's definition of sustainability, and how does this proposal align with it?
2. How will the proposed infrastructure avoid degrading the land's natural state?
3. What are the long-term plans for ecological monitoring and maintenance?



KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

January 27, 2025

TO: Mr. David Penn and Members
Legacy Land Conservation Commission

FROM: Charles Naumu & Members
Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

RE: Opposition to the Application by Bella Bond Foundation for LLC Funding

Aloha Mr. Penn and Members of this Commission:

On behalf of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, I wish to offer our strong opposition to a request from the Bella Bond Foundation for a project they are proposing on lands in the He'eia-Kahalu'u area of Ko'olaupoko.

The stated purpose this organization is proposing for use of 131 acres of conservation lands adjoining Pu'u Ma'eli'eli ridge appears, on its face, to meet a commendable goal. However, we have grave reservations about whether this is appropriate use of these lands and whether this applicant is adequately prepared or whether the zoning is legal for these purposes.

In addition, the applicant does not appear to have any record of prior service to our community nor has it conducted outreach within our community to ensure the compatibility of this project with the surrounding residential areas.

We urge the Commission to deny this funding request.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

CHARLES NAUMU
President

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians. One of the largest of the Hawaiian Civic Clubs, its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart".

P. O. Box 664 * Kaneohe, HI 96744 * Ph. (808) 235-8111 * www.koolaupoko-hcc.org

From: [bronson azama](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for Virtual Testimony
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:33:13 PM

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Bronson Azama, I hail from the Ahupua‘a of He‘e‘ia and I am requesting to testify virtually for agenda item 2.B. I would like to request a link to give oral testimony virtually and provide the following written testimony for this request by the Bella Bond Foundation:

"Greetings Commissioners,

I submit this testimony in opposition to the approval of funds requested by the Bella Bond Foundation for the *Kahalu‘u Nature Sanctuary*. My testimony in no way condones that the State of Hawai‘i or any of its departments operate legally here in the Hawaiian Islands. I further acknowledge that such governance by this commission, its parent agencies, the State of Hawai‘i, and the United States is in fact furthers the crime of an illegal occupation of the Hawaiian Kingdom, as acknowledged by the *United Nations Human Rights Commission* via memo from the independent investigator Alfred-Maurice de Zeyas in 2018. Nonetheless as a Hawaiian Kingdom subject under duress, I submit this testimony in hopes that there is less detriment caused to our lands, waters, and communities, as governance has not been returned to the rightful authorities.

There are a series of issues that I have with the Bella Bond Foundation proposal:

1. They have not to my knowledge conducted any community outreach to the neighborhood boards or cultural-based communitiy organizations that operate in the Ko‘olaupoko and Kahalu‘u region such as the Ko‘olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club;
2. This group has no background or training in stewardship of culturally significant sites, and traditional Hawaiian agricultural systems appropriate to environmental stewardship;
3. Their securing and pursuing of funds using AI-generated eco-friendly designs without approval from County DPP offices, or community consultation should be libel for fraud;
4. Organizations should not be allowed to procure funds for projects on conservation lands without approvals and input from the community.

For these reasons above I urge this illegal commission to not approve and in fact investigate the Bella Bond Foundation for fraud. This organization should not receive any support from public funds until community organizations including the neighborhood board and longtime cultural practitioners who have genealogical relationship to the Kahalu‘u region demonstrate support. I believe in the opportunity for positive collaborations from organizations seeking to steward our lands and waters, but when the ask is money before relationship with the community I challenge that such behavior should not be tolerated in Hawai‘i.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testmony.

Mahalo,
Bronson Azama"

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

On behalf of my family and myself, I am writing to express our strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to establish a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. Our family has lived on this ridge for generations, and we maintain a deep connection to its land, history, and cultural significance. As individuals with expertise in conservation, education, farming, and community advocacy, we urge the Commission to deny this application.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program is dedicated to preserving lands of environmental, cultural, and community significance, ensuring their protection for future generations. Unfortunately, Bella Bond's proposal focuses on profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure, which it misleadingly presents as conservation. Their plan lacks concrete stewardship initiatives, such as invasive species management, native plant restoration, or cultural preservation efforts—making it clear that this is not a genuine conservation project, but a commercial venture disguised as one.

Meaningful community engagement is vital to responsible land stewardship, yet Bella Bond's approach has been opaque and dismissive. Their outreach, limited to vague flyers and mentions of casual events, disregards the need for genuine dialogue with cultural practitioners, conservation experts, and the local residents most affected by this development. This lack of transparency and involvement further underscores the flaws in their proposal.

The foundation's financial records also raise serious concerns. Their Form 990 shows a sudden revenue spike to over \$500,000, with minimal spending on programs (\$19,626) and excessive administrative costs tied to travel and accommodations. They report no employees and only a single volunteer, casting doubt on their capacity to manage a project of this scope. Moreover, the individuals listed as foundation leaders are nearly untraceable through public records or professional profiles, calling into question their credibility and ability to earn the community's trust.

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is far more than a parcel of land; it is a cornerstone of our community's cultural heritage, environmental integrity, and resilience. Its preservation is essential for the health and identity of the community, particularly for Native Hawaiians, whose ancestral ties to this 'āina offer a vital connection to healing and cultural renewal. Approving this poorly planned and misleading project would undermine the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program and fail the people it is meant to serve.

We deeply appreciate the Commission's dedication to safeguarding Hawai'i's conservation lands and the opportunity for public input. We respectfully urge you to uphold the program's mission by rejecting this application and ensuring that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, careful consideration, and commitment to protecting Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. I would be happy to provide additional information or discuss this matter further if needed.

Sincerely,



Eric Stewart Reppun
808-225-7646
ereppun@gmail.com

Addendum to Letter Opposing Bella Bond Foundation Proposal

Detailed Arguments and Supporting Questions

Misalignment with the Mission of Land Legacy Conservation Funds

The Bella Bond Foundation's proposal does not align with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, which emphasizes the preservation of lands with significant environmental, cultural, and community value. Instead, the proposal prioritizes infrastructure for eco-tourism, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, with no detailed plans for stewardship of the land.

Key Concerns:

- The lack of commitments to managing invasive species, planting native species, or preserving cultural landmarks undermines the conservation goals of the program.
- The inclusion of eco-tourism elements suggests a profit-driven motive disguised as conservation.

Questions:

1. How does the proposed infrastructure align with the conservation goals of the Land Legacy Conservation Program?
2. Why was the application not dismissed for lacking a robust stewardship plan?
3. What specific actions will the foundation take to ensure ecological preservation?

Lack of Community Engagement and Partnerships

Community engagement is essential for successful land stewardship. The Bella Bond Foundation's minimal efforts—limited to flyers and vague mentions of community brunches—demonstrate a lack of genuine interest in involving the local community or its stakeholders.

Key Concerns:

- No evidence of partnerships with local conservation experts, cultural practitioners, or organizations.
- The absence of meaningful consultation undermines the credibility of their claims of community benefit.

Questions:

1. What local organizations, cultural practitioners, or conservation experts have they partnered with?
2. How has the community been consulted prior to the submission of this application?
3. How does the foundation plan to involve the community in the ongoing management of the site?

Environmental and Cultural Impact

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile ecosystem with steep terrain that makes it unsuitable for farming or heavy infrastructure. The area also holds significant cultural value, and its conservation zoning reflects the need to preserve it for future generations.

Key Concerns:

- Farming on steep terrain could lead to erosion and environmental degradation.
- Development poses a threat to cultural sites and native ecosystems.

Questions:

1. How will the foundation address the risks of erosion associated with farming and infrastructure development?
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3. How does the proposal honor the cultural and historical significance of the ridge?

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Key Concerns:

- Only \$19,626 was spent on program services, with significant funds allocated to travel and accommodations.
- The foundation lists no employees and only one volunteer, calling into question their operational capacity.
- The individuals listed as leaders of the foundation are difficult to verify through public records or professional profiles.

Questions:

1. How does the foundation justify its disproportionate spending on administrative costs and travel?
2. Why is there no evidence of active programs or initiatives tied to their stated mission?
3. Can the foundation demonstrate financial and operational capacity to sustain a project of this scale?

Increased Neighborhood Traffic and Disturbance

The proposed development would attract significant traffic to the area without providing adequate plans for parking or transportation management. This could disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's ecosystem.

Key Concerns:

- The reliance on rideshare services (e.g., Uber, Lyft) as a transportation plan is unrealistic and unsustainable.
- Increased traffic may lead to noise pollution, safety issues, and environmental harm.

Questions:

1. What transportation and parking plans are in place for visitors and staff?
2. How will the foundation mitigate the impact of increased traffic on the neighborhood?
3. What steps will be taken to ensure transportation plans align with conservation goals?

Misrepresentation of Sustainability

While the foundation claims to prioritize sustainability, the proposal's focus on infrastructure suggests otherwise. The emphasis on eco-tourism revenue undermines their claims of minimal environmental impact.

Key Concerns:

- The heavy focus on infrastructure is inconsistent with genuine sustainability efforts.
- No detailed plans for long-term ecological monitoring or land management.

Questions:

1. What is the foundation's definition of sustainability, and how does this proposal align with it?
2. How will the proposed infrastructure avoid degrading the land's natural state?
3. What are the long-term plans for ecological monitoring and maintenance?

From: [John Texeira](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Jan. 29 Meeting Review
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:45:45 PM

Aloha Mr. Penn and Members of this Commission,

My name is John Kaleookalani Texeira, and I was born and raised in Kāneʻohe; my family dates back hundreds of years in Koʻolaupoko. I write today to strongly oppose Agenda Item 2.B. The proposed project by the Bella Bond Foundation does not align with the values and goals of the Legacy Land Conservation Program and raises significant concerns about its impact on the land, the community, and our cultural heritage.

Puʻu Māʻeliʻeli is a wahi pana, a sacred place rich with moʻolelo and ancestral significance. The proposed development risks commodifying and damaging this treasured area under the guise of conservation. True restoration and sustainability require deep cultural knowledge, which can only come from those who have a genealogical connection to and understanding of the land. It's troubling that the Bella Bond Foundation lacks local or Native Hawaiian representation and expertise, as reflected in their DCCA filings. Additionally, there are documented cultural sites, such as a heiau, within the project area, yet consultation with the State Historic Preservation Division has been overlooked.

This proposal has not been adequately shared with the community, including the Kahaluʻu Neighborhood Board, leaving local voices excluded from critical discussions. Decisions like these should be informed by those who live here, care for this land, and hold its stories. I respectfully urge the Commission to defer this agenda item until proper community engagement and cultural due diligence have occurred.

I will not be providing spoken testimony at the January 29, 2025 meeting but appreciate you taking my opposition to this matter into account.

Respectfully,

John Kaleookalani Texeira

From: [R. Espinoza](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony in regards to Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 88 and applicant, Bella Bond Foundation
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:00:04 PM

I am writing to express my genuine apprehensions regarding the Legacy Land Conservation Commission's proposed grant to the Bella Bond Foundation, as a private citizen of Oahu. The Bella Bond Foundation nonprofit has only been in existence for four years, and during the years 2020-2023, it generated under fifty thousand dollars each year in gross receipts, despite its mission. It is imperative that nonprofits have demonstrated long-term financial availability and sustainability to the citizenry of Oahu prior to taking on such an endeavor. Furthermore, upon reviewing the Bella Bond website, I was unable to identify examples in which this nonprofit has maintained a successful 10 year plus project. Their website indicates that the organization has aspirational long-term objectives and has made a modest Oahu impact on its local clientele. Additionally, the Bella Bond Foundation website emphasizes their Texas-based modular home manufacturing facility, which raises the issue of whether the organization intends to transport modular homes to Oahu, a move that would generate a substantial carbon footprint. I implore the commission to cease all contemplation of the Bella Bond Foundation if their objective is to transport transient housing to Oahu.

I am confident that the Commission will take into account all of these critical factors in your evaluation and decline the grant the Bella Bond Foundation at this time.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Espinoza

From: [Ann](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No construction on Puu Maelieli
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:01:50 PM

As a lifelong resident of 96744, I am opposed to any construction of any kind, on Pu'u Ma'eli'eli. Please do not allow this supposed non profit to desecrate these lands with their 'eco village'.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Taleitaumata Ramos](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Regarding Bella Bond Foundation's Proposal
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:03:28 PM

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing as a concerned community member to express my strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. This project, as presented, raises significant concerns about its alignment with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program and the values it is intended to uphold. The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain preserved for future generations. However, the Bella Bond Foundation's proposal prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, rather than genuine conservation efforts. Their lack of a detailed stewardship plan—including commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or preserving cultural landmarks—speaks volumes about the true intent behind this project. This is not a conservation initiative; it is a commercial development disguised as one. Community engagement is a fundamental principle of responsible land stewardship. Yet, the Bella Bond Foundation has demonstrated minimal transparency and involvement with the local community. Their outreach appears limited to flyers and vague mentions of events, with no evidence of meaningful consultation with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or local residents who would be most affected by this development. Such a lack of genuine community involvement is deeply troubling and undermines the credibility of their proposal. The financial history of the Bella Bond Foundation raises additional red flags. According to their Form 990, the foundation experienced a sudden increase in revenue to over \$500,000, yet only \$19,626 was spent on program services. Meanwhile, a disproportionate amount of funding was allocated to travel and accommodations, with no evidence of active programs or initiatives. Even more concerning is the lack of employees and the reliance on just one volunteer, raising serious questions about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. How can an organization with such opaque leadership and questionable financial practices be entrusted with conservation funds? Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile and culturally significant area that deserves to remain preserved. The proposed development threatens its delicate ecosystem and the cultural heritage it represents. Steep terrain, inadequate plans for farming and infrastructure, and the potential for environmental degradation are all significant risks. Additionally, increased traffic and a lack of clear transportation plans will disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's conservation value. I deeply appreciate the Commission's dedication to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process provided for public input. I respectfully urge you to reject the Bella Bond Foundation's application and ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for its ecological, cultural, and community significance. By upholding the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, the Commission can safeguard this vital 'āina for the health and well-being of the land and its people. Thank you for your time, diligence, and commitment to preserving Hawai'i's precious natural resources.

Sincerely,
Dillon K Ramos
taleitau.amos@gmail.com
(808)341-5118

From: [Cindy Teixeira](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commission Reveiw Submission for January 29, 2025 Meeting
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:07:19 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Cindy Teixeira, and I am a resident of Ko'olaupoko. Our family has lived in Kāne'ōhe for generations, and we have deep roots in the lands and waters of Kahalu'u. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Agenda Item 2.B, the proposed 130-acre Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary by the Bella Bond Foundation.

The land behind our homes is not just "open space" or a blank canvas for outsiders to reshape. This is sacred land, rich in cultural, historical, and environmental importance. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding area hold deep significance for kānaka 'ōiwi, and any project in this region must center on local stewardship and respect for these traditions. The Bella Bond Foundation, with no ties to our community, cannot be trusted to mālama this 'āina in a way that honors its significance. Their proposal reflects a lack of understanding of the cultural and environmental complexities of Kahalu'u.

Additionally, this project has not been presented properly to our community for input or support, which is an unacceptable oversight. Decisions of this scale should be guided by those who live here and understand the unique needs of this land. It feels as though this project is being imposed on us without consideration for the people who call this place home.

I will not be able to present live testimony on January 29, but I respectfully urge the Commission to reject this project.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Cindy Teixeira

From: [Tiana Kamiko](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 88
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:07:33 PM

Aloha mai kākou!

I received notice regarding this development that is hoping to receive government funding. I'm here to provide testimony AGAINST this development. I'm all for nature conservation, but why do we need to bring tourism into it? We can be fully sustainable without so much put on the tourism industry. The traffic in and out of Kahalu'u is already ridiculous, and adding yet another place for tourists to take up space is going to make it even harder for the kama'āina who live in that and surrounding areas.

We should be referring to native Hawaiian eco and agricultural groups to respect, sustain, and continue the life of our native plants, animals, and agriculture. Is government funding being used to fund those programs? Who's even in charge of this development - I couldn't find much information on it.

I don't think this is a good fit for the community.

Thank you for your time,

Tiana Kamiko

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing on behalf of my family and myself to express our strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Legacy Land Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. Our family has lived on this ridge for generations and continues to reside here, with a deep connection to its land, history, and cultural significance. As individuals with expertise in conservation, education, farming, and community advocacy, we urge the Commission to reject this application.

The Legacy Land Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain unspoiled for future generations. Bella Bond's proposal, however, prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure under the guise of conservation. Their lack of a tangible stewardship plan—no commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or engaging in meaningful cultural preservation—speaks volumes. This is not a conservation project; it's a commercial Trojan horse.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of responsible land stewardship, yet the Bella Bond Foundation's approach has been anything but transparent. Their minimal efforts, limited to flyers and vague mentions of brunches, insult the intelligence and dignity of our community. Where are the conversations with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or the residents who will be most impacted by this development? The absence of true community involvement underscores the deceptive nature of this proposal.

The foundation's financial filings raise serious red flags. Their Form 990 reveals a sudden revenue increase to over \$500,000, with minimal programmatic spending of just \$19,626 and disproportionate administrative costs spent on travel and accommodations. Even more concerning is their lack of employees and only one reported volunteer, which raises significant doubts about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. Moreover, the individuals listed as the Foundation's leaders are nearly impossible to verify through any meaningful public records or professional profiles. An organization with such opaque leadership and financial practices should not be trusted.

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli is not just a piece of land; it is a vital part of our community's cultural heritage, environmental health, and resilience. Preserving this 'āina is critical to public health, particularly for Native Hawaiians, whose ancestral ties to the land are a source of identity and healing in the face of historical trauma. To allow such a project to proceed would be a disservice to this community and to the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program.

We deeply appreciate the Commission's commitment to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process you provide for public input. We respectfully call upon you to uphold the mission and vision of the Legacy Land Conservation Program by rejecting this application. Together, we can ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli remains a sanctuary for the health and well-being of the land and its people. Thank you for your time, diligence, and dedication to stewarding Hawai'i's precious natural resources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,
Frederick Reppun
freppun@gmail.com
47-665 Melekula Road
Kāne'ohe, HI 96744

Addendum to Letter Opposing Bella Bond Foundation Proposal

Detailed Arguments and Supporting Questions

Misalignment with the Mission of Land Legacy Conservation Funds

The Bella Bond Foundation's proposal does not align with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, which emphasizes the preservation of lands with significant environmental, cultural, and community value. Instead, the proposal prioritizes infrastructure for eco-tourism, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, with no detailed plans for stewardship of the land.

Key Concerns:

- The lack of commitments to managing invasive species, planting native species, or preserving cultural landmarks undermines the conservation goals of the program.
- The inclusion of eco-tourism elements suggests a profit-driven motive disguised as conservation.

Questions:

1. How does the proposed infrastructure align with the conservation goals of the Land Legacy Conservation Program?
2. Why was the application not dismissed for lacking a robust stewardship plan?
3. What specific actions will the foundation take to ensure ecological preservation?

Lack of Community Engagement and Partnerships

Community engagement is essential for successful land stewardship. The Bella Bond Foundation's minimal efforts—limited to flyers and vague mentions of community brunches—demonstrate a lack of genuine interest in involving the local community or its stakeholders.

Key Concerns:

- No evidence of partnerships with local conservation experts, cultural practitioners, or organizations.
- The absence of meaningful consultation undermines the credibility of their claims of community benefit.

Questions:

1. What local organizations, cultural practitioners, or conservation experts have they partnered with?
2. How has the community been consulted prior to the submission of this application?
3. How does the foundation plan to involve the community in the ongoing management of the site?

Environmental and Cultural Impact

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile ecosystem with steep terrain that makes it unsuitable for farming or heavy infrastructure. The area also holds significant cultural value, and its conservation zoning reflects the need to preserve it for future generations.

Key Concerns:

- Farming on steep terrain could lead to erosion and environmental degradation.
- Development poses a threat to cultural sites and native ecosystems.

Questions:

1. How will the foundation address the risks of erosion associated with farming and infrastructure development?
2. What measures are in place to protect cultural sites and native ecosystems from disruption?
3. How does the proposal honor the cultural and historical significance of the ridge?

Financial Transparency and Viability

The Bella Bond Foundation's financial history raises serious concerns about their capacity to manage a project of this scale. Their Form 990 shows a dramatic revenue increase to over \$500,000, but their expenditures include minimal programmatic spending and disproportionately high administrative costs.

Key Concerns:

- Only \$19,626 was spent on program services, with significant funds allocated to travel and accommodations.
- The foundation lists no employees and only one volunteer, calling into question their operational capacity.
- The individuals listed as leaders of the foundation are difficult to verify through public records or professional profiles.

Questions:

1. How does the foundation justify its disproportionate spending on administrative costs and travel?
2. Why is there no evidence of active programs or initiatives tied to their stated mission?
3. Can the foundation demonstrate financial and operational capacity to sustain a project of this scale?

Increased Neighborhood Traffic and Disturbance

The proposed development would attract significant traffic to the area without providing adequate plans for parking or transportation management. This could disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's ecosystem.

Key Concerns:

- The reliance on rideshare services (e.g., Uber, Lyft) as a transportation plan is unrealistic and unsustainable.
- Increased traffic may lead to noise pollution, safety issues, and environmental harm.

Questions:

1. What transportation and parking plans are in place for visitors and staff?
2. How will the foundation mitigate the impact of increased traffic on the neighborhood?
3. What steps will be taken to ensure transportation plans align with conservation goals?

Misrepresentation of Sustainability

While the foundation claims to prioritize sustainability, the proposal's focus on infrastructure suggests otherwise. The emphasis on eco-tourism revenue undermines their claims of minimal environmental impact.

Key Concerns:

- The heavy focus on infrastructure is inconsistent with genuine sustainability efforts.
- No detailed plans for long-term ecological monitoring or land management.

Questions:

1. What is the foundation's definition of sustainability, and how does this proposal align with it?
2. How will the proposed infrastructure avoid degrading the land's natural state?
3. What are the long-term plans for ecological monitoring and maintenance?

01.27.25

Lennie Espinoza

Kahalu'u Land Development Testimony

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony to express my deep opposition to Bella Bond's request for government funding to secure their development of an "ecovillage" in Kaneohe. This land is special to so many, and it would be ludicrous to entrust this land to a non-Hawaiian "foundation" with no ties to the 'āina, no knowledge of ahupua'a system stewardship, or ties to the local and Hawaiian community they claim to serve with such a development.

Their website shows no examples of their connection and/or impact with the communities they claim to serve (widows, single moms, children in need), nor any examples of cultural understanding of the land they aim to take or the people they aim to take this land from.

We cannot continue to support non-Hawaiian development on Hawaiian land. Such developments further harm Hawaiian efforts of 'āina restoration and are a direct threat to communal well being.

I strongly oppose funding going to such a development, which has no ground to stand on. This land is not the states' to support such a project on, and it is not Bella Bonds' to develop on.

This "ecovillage" shows no example of functioning based on Hawaiian practices nor does it show any signs that it would genuinely serve the Hawaiian people.

-Lennie Espinoza

From: [Jennifer Valle](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 2B - Pu'u Mā'eli'eli development
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:26:21 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Jennifer Valle, and I am from Kaneohe. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Jennifer Valle

January 27, 2025

Atten: Legacy Land Conservation Commission Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325 Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing as a concerned community member to express my strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. This project, as presented, raises significant concerns about its alignment with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program and the values it is intended to uphold.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain preserved for future generations. However, the Bella Bond Foundation's proposal prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, rather than genuine conservation efforts. Their lack of a detailed stewardship plan—including commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or preserving cultural landmarks—speaks volumes about the true intent behind this project. This is not a conservation initiative; it is a commercial development disguised as one.

Community engagement is a fundamental principle of responsible land stewardship. Yet, the Bella Bond Foundation has demonstrated minimal transparency and involvement with the local community. Their outreach appears limited to flyers and vague mentions of events, with no evidence of meaningful consultation with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or local residents who would be most affected by this development. Such a lack of genuine community involvement is deeply troubling and undermines the credibility of their proposal.

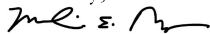
The financial history of the Bella Bond Foundation raises additional red flags. According to their Form 990, the foundation experienced a sudden increase in revenue to over \$500,000, yet only \$19,626 was spent on program services. Meanwhile, a disproportionate amount of funding was allocated to travel and accommodations, with no evidence of active programs or initiatives. Even more concerning is the lack of employees and the reliance on just one volunteer, raising serious questions about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. How can an organization with such opaque leadership and questionable financial practices be entrusted with conservation funds?

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile and culturally significant area that deserves to remain preserved. The proposed development threatens its delicate ecosystem and the cultural heritage it represents. Steep terrain, inadequate plans for farming and infrastructure, and the potential for environmental degradation are all significant risks. Additionally, increased traffic and a lack of clear transportation plans will disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's conservation value.

I deeply appreciate the Commission's dedication to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process provided for public input. I respectfully urge you to reject the Bella Bond Foundation's application and ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for its ecological, cultural, and community significance. By upholding the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, the Commission can safeguard this vital 'āina for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and commitment to preserving Hawai'i's precious natural resources.

Sincerely,



Melissa Mau

melissa@kakooiwi.org, (808) 561-8370

From: [Kira Fox](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to public funding for the Kahaluu Nature Sanctuary
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:42:45 PM

Aloha Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am from Waihe'e, Kahalu'u and I oppose public funding for the Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary that is schedule for evaluation this Wednesday 1/29/25. There are many amazing and impactful nonprofits in He'eia and Kahalu'u that are doing important things for our community. An "ecovillage" on top of Pu'u Ma'eli'eli does not seem to address community needs.

First, there are many of us who have never heard of this nonprofit. A nonprofit project receiving public funds should do their due diligence to create pilina with their community and work together to address needs in a way that centers our community. Before receiving public funding they should demonstrate proof of community engagement and support, for example being present at the neighborhood board meetings, which I do watch and have not seen a presence from their organization. They could provide letters of support from the nonprofits in the Kahalu'u and He'eia ahupua'a. Without community buy-in and support, this project should not receive public funds.

Second, their organization should show examples of their experience in land management. These examples should be tailored to the unique needs of land management in Hawai'i and demonstrate specific intentions towards ahupua'a land management.

Third, we have many successful neighboring nonprofits that thrive due to partnership and collaboration. This nonprofit should show their intention to collaborate with conservation organizations and bring forward local partners who will be actively supporting and working with their organization. If they are unable to do so it shows a disconnected and more individualistic intention and they should not receive public funding.

Finally, this organization should clearly articulate their management model that fits zoning regulations. Misuse of land for private gain should never be supported with public funds.

Mahalo for reading my testimony.

Aloha nō,
Kira Mau

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing on behalf of my family and myself to express our strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. Our family has lived on this ridge for generations and continues to reside here, with a deep connection to its land, history, and cultural significance. As individuals with expertise in conservation, education, farming, and community advocacy, we urge the Commission to reject this application.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain unspoiled for future generations. Bella Bond's proposal, however, prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure under the guise of conservation. Their lack of a tangible stewardship plan—no commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or engaging in meaningful cultural preservation—speaks volumes. This is not a conservation project; it's a commercial Trojan horse.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of responsible land stewardship, yet the Bella Bond Foundation's approach has been anything but transparent. Their minimal efforts, limited to flyers and vague mentions of brunches, insult the intelligence and dignity of our community. Where are the conversations with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or the residents who will be most impacted by this development? The absence of true community involvement underscores the deceptive nature of this proposal.

The foundation's financial filings raise serious red flags. Their Form 990 reveals a sudden revenue increase to over \$500,000, with minimal programmatic spending of just \$19,626 and disproportionate administrative costs spent on travel and accommodations. Even more concerning is their lack of employees and only one reported volunteer, which raises significant doubts about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. Moreover, the individuals listed as the Foundation's leaders are nearly impossible to verify through any meaningful public records or professional profiles. How does an organization with such opaque leadership and financial practices expect to gain the community's trust?

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is not just a piece of land; it is a vital part of our community's cultural heritage, environmental health, and resilience. Preserving this 'āina is critical to public health, particularly for Native Hawaiians, whose ancestral ties to the land are a source of identity and healing in the face of historical trauma. To allow such a deceptive and poorly planned project to proceed would be a disservice to this community and to the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program.

We deeply appreciate the Commission's commitment to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process you provide for public input. We respectfully call upon you to uphold the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program by rejecting this application. Together, we can ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and dedication to stewarding Hawai'i's precious natural resources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Reppun

Farmer/Resident in Waiahole Valley

n.reppun@gmail.com

Farm Director Emeritus at Kakoo Oiwi

nick@kakooiwi.org

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Mariko Quinn, and I am from the ahupua'a of He'eia. I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. I grew up hiking at Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, and have already seen the impacts that increased tourism has had on the area. Developing a sacred site would be a critical mistake that would have devastating and significant impacts on the surrounding community.

The presentation of this proposal as a nature sanctuary creates the illusion of an alignment with conservation goals. However, not only does this project fail to present any evidence of collaboration with the community it would reside in, but it also presents no concrete plan for how it will fulfill its claim of being a nature sanctuary- only vague claims about gardening and sustainability. Furthermore, The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana that embodies the mo'olelo and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is unacceptable. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. The proposal consists primarily of AI generated images with no specific information, indicating a lack of knowledge and even plan for the area. The Foundation appears ill equipped to consider a project of this size. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Mariko Quinn

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Mahina Kaomea. I was born and raised in He‘eia, the ahupua‘a in which Pu‘u Mā‘eli‘eli is located, and I grew up hiking here pretty much from the time I was old enough to hike. It was the place I learned to identify most of the upland forest plants that I know, which fruits and flowers are safe to eat and which ones to avoid. As I got older, I began to learn the history of this place, like how it got its name (from an epic battle between Kāne and Kanaloa racing their way up the mountain), that it is home to one of our ahupua‘a’s remaining heiau, and how the landscape was transformed dramatically during World War II when it was seized to build bunkers. It was from the summit of Pu‘u Mā‘eli‘eli, where I learned the names of all of the mountain peaks from Kānehoalani (at Kualoa) to Lanipō (in Waimānalo), and recited the name of each of those peaks to myself so I would never forget. It was here where I learned the meaning of one of the most famous sayings of our place, “ko‘a mokumoku o He‘eia,” by seeing the “broken up reefs of He‘eia” displayed before me.

This place has changed me. And it is because of the growth and transformation this place has made possible that I am submitting testimony in **strong opposition to Agenda Item 2.B**. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, ecotourism is the *opposite* of what our community and our ‘āina needs. I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu‘u Mā‘eli‘eli, which (as mentioned above) holds profound cultural and historical importance. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. In particular, I feel concerned that there is only a single sentence in the organization’s pitch that speaks to “supporting the Hawaiian community through sustainable farming, education, and accessible resources,” with no concrete plans about how to do so or even how such an organization (which does not seem to have notable ties to Hawai‘i cultural or conservation communities) plans to do so. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu‘u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to either deny this proposal outright or, at the very least, defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have

unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project. The long-term preservation of this sacred place depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

ke aloha,
Mahina Kaomea

From: [Lorraine Waianuhea](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to Agenda Item 2.B.
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 11:27:08 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Lorraine Waianuhea, and I am a resident of Pālolo. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. because friends who are deeply involved in community and ecological restoration work in Kahalu‘u are concerned about this proposed project. There has been no genuine public outreach or engagement with the people of Kahalu‘u by the leaders of this project.

Projects that cannot demonstrate community support should not be awarded public money.

I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu‘u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. The long-term preservation of Pu‘u Mā‘eli‘eli and Kahalu‘u depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama ‘āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha ‘āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu‘u’s resources for future generations.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony.
Lorraine Waianuhea

From: [Kevin Frey](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meeting 88 Testimony, Bella Bond application
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 11:54:19 PM

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission

Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife

1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325 Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing as a concerned community member to express my strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. This project, as presented, raises significant concerns about its alignment with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program and the values it is intended to uphold.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain preserved for future generations. However, the Bella Bond Foundation's proposal prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, rather than genuine conservation efforts. Their lack of a detailed stewardship plan—including commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or preserving cultural landmarks—speaks volumes about the true intent behind this project. This is not a conservation initiative; it is a commercial development disguised as one.

Community engagement is a fundamental principle of responsible land stewardship. Yet, the Bella Bond Foundation has demonstrated minimal transparency and involvement with the local community. Their outreach appears limited to flyers and vague mentions of events, with no evidence of meaningful consultation with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or local residents who would be most affected by this development. Such a lack of genuine community involvement is deeply troubling and undermines the credibility of their proposal. The financial history of the Bella Bond Foundation raises additional red flags. According to their Form 990, the foundation experienced a sudden increase in revenue to over \$500,000, yet only \$19,626 was spent on program services. Meanwhile, a disproportionate amount of funding was allocated to travel and accommodations, with no evidence of active programs or initiatives. Even more concerning is the lack of employees and the reliance on just one volunteer, raising serious questions about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. How can an organization with such opaque leadership and questionable financial practices be entrusted with conservation funds?

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile and culturally significant area that deserves to remain preserved. The proposed development threatens its delicate ecosystem and the cultural heritage it represents. Steep terrain, inadequate plans for farming and infrastructure, and the potential for environmental degradation are all significant risks. Additionally, increased traffic and a lack of clear transportation plans will disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's conservation value.

I deeply appreciate the Commission's dedication to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process provided for public input. I am a member of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, and I regularly volunteer at Kako'o 'Oiwī as well as Paepae He'eia and Papahana Kualoa, all based in the ahupua'a of He'eia and all deeply committed to serving the community and restoring traditional Hawaiian practices and values. This Bella Bond

boondoggle appears to me to be the antithesis of these fine organizations. I respectfully urge you to reject the Bella Bond Foundation's application and ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for its ecological, cultural, and community significance. By upholding the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, the Commission can safeguard this vital 'āina for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and commitment to preserving Hawai'i's precious natural resources.

Sincerely,

Kevin Frey
45-535 Luluku Rd Apt B54
Kaneohe. HI 96744
kfrey61@hotmail.com
808-284-8728

From: [Leon Weaver](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Meeting 88, Item 2.B. Bella Bond Foundation
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 12:04:58 AM

Aloha Kakou,

Please do NOT approve the Bella Bond Foundation Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary application. I am a resident of Iuiu St. in Kahalu'u, which is located immediately makai of the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary. As a member of the Kahalu'u community, I don't think taxpayer dollars should be given to a "community engagement" organization with no current presence in the community.

I looked into the Bella Bond Foundation website: <https://www.bellabond.org/>, and could find no evidence of work they have done in the state of Hawaii. Their stated goal is the welfare of widows, orphans, and single mothers, but there is no evidence or data to reflect that they have helped anyone. Not only does their website lack any specific steps or programs, but it appears to have been AI generated, as though it was built and designed using ChatGPT or a similar AI software. Further, their promotional video exploits the images of Hawaii residents, such as Kimi Werner, without their knowledge or permission (taken down as of 1/27/2025, but still available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrnUvxA5XYo>).

Most importantly, their projected monthly income through "The Go-Giver Movement" of \$500,000,000.00 is entirely based on expected donations of \$100 per month from five million donors. If they are planning on having this level of donor support, then they either do not need the grant money they are requesting, or they will not have enough funds to operate an all-in-one community engagement, conservation, agriculture, sustainable development headquarters. There is no documentation of current membership or donations

Upon review of the Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary proposal, there is no stated conservation plan. There are no issues identified with the properties current status that Bella Bond is directly addressing. Building a farm, treehouses, roads, and pathways will be disruptive to the area and the opposite of conservation. There is also no mention of what species or habitat they are seeking to conserve. The proposed restrooms will feature "[...] an ecological wastewater system," which could mean anything. Further, if the waste from the construction or the sewage doesn't impact our coastal waters, then the high transition of people visiting the retreat likely will.

This entire organization and application for funding reeks of wealthy individuals trying to build themselves a private retreat under the guise of helping vulnerable women and connecting community. They want to use taxpayer dollars to build the gates that will help keep the community out. There are plenty of local organizations that are far more deserving of that funding.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Leon Weaver
47-328 Iuiu St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744
weaver_leon@yahoo.com

From: [Megan Kaleipumehana Cabral](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for 1/29 Meeting 88
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 12:51:38 AM

In opposition of Agenda Item 2.B. – Will not be providing spoken testimony

Legacy Land Conservation Commission Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325 Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing as a concerned community member to express my strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i – a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the Kānaka 'Ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. This project, as presented, raises significant concerns about its alignment with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program and the values it is intended to uphold.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain preserved for future generations. However, the Bella Bond Foundation's proposal prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, rather than genuine conservation efforts. Their lack of a detailed stewardship plan speaks volumes about the true intent behind this project. This is not a conservation initiative; it is a commercial development disguised as one.

Community engagement is a fundamental principle of responsible land stewardship. Yet, the Bella Bond Foundation has demonstrated minimal transparency and involvement with the local community. Their outreach appears limited to flyers and vague mentions of events, with no evidence of meaningful consultation with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or local residents who would be most affected by this development. Such a lack of genuine community involvement is deeply troubling and undermines the credibility of their proposal.

The financial history of the Bella Bond Foundation raises additional red flags. According to their Form 990, the foundation experienced a sudden increase in revenue to over \$500,000, yet only \$19,626 was spent on program services. Meanwhile, a disproportionate amount of funding was allocated to travel and accommodations, with no evidence of active programs or initiatives. Even more concerning is the lack of employees and the reliance on just one volunteer, raising serious questions about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. How can an organization with such opaque leadership and questionable financial practices be entrusted with conservation funds?

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile and culturally significant area that deserves to remain preserved. The proposed development threatens its delicate ecosystem and the cultural heritage it represents – including a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division that has not been addressed in the project plans. Steep terrain, inadequate plans for farming and infrastructure, and the potential for environmental degradation are also all significant risks. Additionally, increased traffic and a lack of clear transportation plans will disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's conservation value.

I deeply appreciate the Commission's dedication to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process provided for public input. I respectfully urge you to reject the Bella Bond Foundation's application and ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli remains a sanctuary for its ecological, cultural, and community significance. By upholding the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, the Commission can safeguard this vital 'āina for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Mahalo nui loa for your time, diligence, and commitment to preserving Hawai'i's precious natural resources.

Sincerely,

Megan Kaleipumehana Cabral
Kailua, O'ahu
mc808@hawaii.edu

M. Kaleipumehana Cabral, MSW
Consultant, Freelance Writer+Filmmaker
Pronouns: They / She

From: [Sheala Karratti-Humphries](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for the Legacy Land Conservation Meeting 88
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 5:45:08 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Sheala Karratti-Humphries, and I am from Honolulu. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B.

Upon further research into the Bella Bond Foundation, via Google searches and the foundation's own website, the foundation appears to support Hawaiian single mothers and their children. While that cause may be admirable, I question the legitimacy of their foundation. Especially as their concept plan for a Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary does not mention this purpose at all, and instead speaks on sustainable farming and eco-tourism.

The foundation's website is lacking in information, and the namesake/founder of the foundation (Bella Koga as listed on the DCCA Hawai'i) isn't even mentioned beyond a sentence in a paragraph from their supporting partner's bio (Mario Miscioscia). Their proposed plan for a nature sanctuary is filled with AI generated images, for their planned structures, even though on their foundation's website they claim to have a team of local architects working with them already. These inconsistencies and lack of information on their foundation, founder, or any partners listed reflect a lack of transparency, and is very concerning.

I've worked to mālama spaces in He'eia, the ahupua'a boarded by Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, I have deep connection to this place and will not stand to see more development on our 'āina as much of the natural spaces we have left on 'Oahu are dwindling. We must hold onto these spaces as they are what makes Hawai'i special geographically, biologically, and culturally as these lands are directly tied to the identity of kānaka maoli. We must stop choosing outside interests over what the people of Hawai'i want for their own home.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Sheala Karratti-Humphries

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325 Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing as a concerned community member to express my strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. This project, as presented, raises significant concerns about its alignment with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program and the values it is intended to uphold.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain preserved for future generations. However, the Bella Bond Foundation's proposal prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, rather than genuine conservation efforts. Their lack of a detailed stewardship plan—including commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or preserving cultural landmarks—speaks volumes about the true intent behind this project. This is not a conservation initiative; it is a commercial development disguised as one. Community engagement is a fundamental principle of responsible land stewardship. Yet, the Bella Bond Foundation has demonstrated minimal transparency and involvement with the local community. Their outreach appears limited to flyers and vague mentions of events, with no evidence of

meaningful consultation with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or local residents who would be most affected by this development. Such a lack of genuine community involvement is deeply troubling and undermines the credibility of their proposal.

The financial history of the Bella Bond Foundation raises additional red flags. According to their Form 990, the foundation experienced a sudden increase in revenue to over \$500,000, yet only \$19,626 was spent on program services. Meanwhile, a disproportionate amount of funding was allocated to travel and accommodations, with no evidence of active programs or initiatives. Even more concerning is the lack of employees and the reliance on just one volunteer, raising serious questions about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. How can an organization with such opaque leadership and questionable financial practices be entrusted with conservation funds?

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile and culturally significant area that deserves to remain preserved. The proposed development threatens its delicate ecosystem and the cultural heritage it represents. Steep terrain, inadequate plans for farming and infrastructure, and the potential for environmental degradation are all significant risks. Additionally, increased traffic and a lack of clear transportation plans will disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's conservation value.

I deeply appreciate the Commission's dedication to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process provided for public input. I respectfully urge you to reject the Bella Bond Foundation's application and ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for its ecological, cultural, and community significance. By upholding the mission and

vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, the Commission can safeguard this vital 'āina for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and commitment to preserving Hawai'i's precious natural resources.

Sincerely,

Hailee Nalani Kaio

(808) 979- 4498

nalaniwithdakani@gmail.com

2405 Kula Kolea Dr.,

Honolulu, HI 96819

From: [Autumn Blaisdell](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ma'eli'eli- Bella Bond
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 7:02:56 AM

January 28, 2025 Legacy Land Conservation Commission Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325 Honolulu, HI 96813 Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, I am writing as a concerned community member to express my strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. This project, as presented, raises significant concerns about its alignment with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program and the values it is intended to uphold. The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain preserved for future generations. However, the Bella Bond Foundation's proposal prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, rather than genuine conservation efforts. Their lack of a detailed stewardship plan—including commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or preserving cultural landmarks—speaks volumes about the true intent behind this project. This is not a conservation initiative; it is a commercial development disguised as one. Community engagement is a fundamental principle of responsible land stewardship. Yet, the Bella Bond Foundation has demonstrated minimal transparency and involvement with the local community. Their outreach appears limited to flyers and vague mentions of events, with no evidence of meaningful consultation with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or local residents who would be most affected by this development. Such a lack of genuine community involvement is deeply troubling and undermines the credibility of their proposal. The financial history of the Bella Bond Foundation raises additional red flags. According to their Form 990, the foundation experienced a sudden increase in revenue to over \$500,000, yet only \$19,626 was spent on program services. Meanwhile, a disproportionate amount of funding was allocated to travel and accommodations, with no evidence of active programs or initiatives. Even more concerning is the lack of employees and the reliance on just one volunteer, raising serious questions about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. How can an organization with such opaque leadership and questionable financial practices be entrusted with conservation funds? Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile and culturally significant area that deserves to remain preserved. The proposed development threatens its delicate ecosystem and the cultural heritage it represents. Steep terrain, inadequate plans for farming and infrastructure, and the potential for environmental degradation are all significant risks. Additionally, increased traffic and a lack of clear transportation plans will disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's conservation value. I deeply appreciate the Commission's dedication to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process provided for public input. I respectfully urge you to reject the Bella Bond Foundation's application and ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for its ecological, cultural, and community significance. By upholding the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, the Commission can safeguard this vital 'āina for the health and well-being of the land and its people. Thank you for your time, diligence, and commitment to preserving Hawai'i's precious natural resources.

Sincerely, Autumn Blaisdell
Autumnblaisdell193@gmail.com

From: [Kyra Dyer](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 88, Agenda Item 2.B.
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 7:12:15 AM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

My name is Kyra Dyer and I am from Honolulu. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Agenda Item 2.B. While the concept of a nature sanctuary appears to align with conservation goals, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project could have on the community, the environment, and the cultural integrity of this sacred area.

The proposed project is located on the slopes of Pu'u Mā'eli'eli, which holds profound cultural and historical importance, serving as a wahi pana (legendary place) that embodies the mo'olelo (stories) and traditions of the kānaka 'ōiwi who have stewarded this land for generations. Development of this area under the guise of a nature sanctuary risks commodifying and disrupting the very cultural resources it seeks to protect. True conservation must center on Indigenous stewardship practices and actively involve those with genealogical and cultural ties to this place. Furthermore, there is a documented heiau within the proposed project area and the State Historic Preservation Division has not been included in the project plans.

The lack of genuine consultation and collaboration with the local community is deeply troubling. Decisions about projects of this magnitude should be guided by those who intimately understand the area. This project risks marginalizing voices that have consistently advocated for sustainable practices rooted in ancestral knowledge. The Bella Bond Foundation has not brought forth this project to the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board for broader community awareness and discussion. I respectfully ask the Commission to defer this agenda item to allow adequate community discussions to occur via the established due process.

While the proposal may claim to enhance natural resources and uplift the community, introducing infrastructure or increased human activity to this sensitive area could have unintended ecological consequences. Pu'u Mā'eli'eli and its surrounding ecosystems are already under pressure from urbanization, runoff, and invasive species. Additional stress could further degrade the biocultural resources that residents and stewards have worked hard to protect and restore.

Rather than establishing a new sanctuary under an external framework, I urge the Commission to support and uplift existing community-led initiatives, such as those spearheaded by cultural practitioners and local nonprofits. These efforts, grounded in aloha 'āina (love for the land) and place-based education, represent a more holistic and respectful approach to conserving Kahalu'u's resources for future generations.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposed Kahalu'u Nature Sanctuary project in its current form. The long-term preservation of this sacred place

depends on empowering and resourcing those who are already doing the vital work of mālama 'āina (caring for the land), not imposing top-down projects that may conflict with the values and priorities of the community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration of this testimony,

Kyra Dyer

From: [Mahealani Botelho](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Bella Bond Foundation's application
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 7:24:53 AM

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325 Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing as a concerned community member to express my strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. This project, as presented, raises significant concerns about its alignment with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program and the values it is intended to uphold.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain preserved for future generations. However, the Bella Bond Foundation's proposal prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, rather than genuine conservation efforts. Their lack of a detailed stewardship plan—including commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or preserving cultural landmarks—speaks volumes about the true intent behind this project. This is not a conservation initiative; it is a commercial development disguised as one.

Community engagement is a fundamental principle of responsible land stewardship. Yet, the Bella Bond Foundation has demonstrated minimal transparency and involvement with the local community. Their outreach appears limited to flyers and vague mentions of events, with no evidence of meaningful consultation with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or local residents who would be most affected by this development. Such a lack of genuine community involvement is deeply troubling and undermines the credibility of their proposal. The financial history of the Bella Bond Foundation raises additional red flags. According to their Form 990, the foundation experienced a sudden increase in revenue to over \$500,000, yet only \$19,626 was spent on program services. Meanwhile, a disproportionate amount of funding was allocated to travel and accommodations, with no evidence of active programs or initiatives. Even more concerning is the lack of employees and the reliance on just one volunteer, raising serious questions about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. How can an organization with such opaque leadership and questionable financial practices be entrusted with conservation funds?

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile and culturally significant area that deserves to remain preserved. The proposed development threatens its delicate ecosystem and the cultural heritage it represents. Steep terrain, inadequate plans for farming and infrastructure, and the potential for environmental degradation are all significant risks. Additionally, increased traffic and a lack of clear transportation plans will disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's conservation value.

I deeply appreciate the Commission's dedication to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process provided for public input. I respectfully urge you to reject the Bella Bond Foundation's application and ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for its ecological, cultural, and community significance. By upholding the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, the Commission can safeguard this vital 'āina for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and commitment to preserving Hawai'i's precious natural resources.

Sincerely,
Mahealani Botelho
8087830683

From: [Gus Robertson](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Kahalu'u development.
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 7:32:08 AM

January 28, 2025 Legacy Land Conservation Commission Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325 Honolulu, HI 96813 Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, I am writing as a concerned community member to express my strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. This project, as presented, raises significant concerns about its alignment with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program and the values it is intended to uphold. The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain preserved for future generations. However, the Bella Bond Foundation's proposal prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, rather than genuine conservation efforts. Their lack of a detailed stewardship plan—including commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or preserving cultural landmarks—speaks volumes about the true intent behind this project. This is not a conservation initiative; it is a commercial development disguised as one. Community engagement is a fundamental principle of responsible land stewardship. Yet, the Bella Bond Foundation has demonstrated minimal transparency and involvement with the local community. Their outreach appears limited to flyers and vague mentions of events, with no evidence of meaningful consultation with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or local residents who would be most affected by this development. Such a lack of genuine community involvement is deeply troubling and undermines the credibility of their proposal. The financial history of the Bella Bond Foundation raises additional red flags. According to their Form 990, the foundation experienced a sudden increase in revenue to over \$500,000, yet only \$19,626 was spent on program services. Meanwhile, a disproportionate amount of funding was allocated to travel and accommodations, with no evidence of active programs or initiatives. Even more concerning is the lack of employees and the reliance on just one volunteer, raising serious questions about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. How can an organization with such opaque leadership and questionable financial practices be entrusted with conservation funds? Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile and culturally significant area that deserves to remain preserved. The proposed development threatens its delicate ecosystem and the cultural heritage it represents. Steep terrain, inadequate plans for farming and infrastructure, and the potential for environmental degradation are all significant risks. Additionally, increased traffic and a lack of clear transportation plans will disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's conservation value. I deeply appreciate the Commission's dedication to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process provided for public input. I respectfully urge you to reject the Bella Bond Foundation's application and ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge

remains a sanctuary for its ecological, cultural, and community significance. By upholding the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, the Commission can safeguard this vital 'āina for the health and well-being of the land and its people. Thank you for your time, diligence, and commitment to preserving Hawai'i's precious natural resources.

Sincerely, Gus Robertson

801-673-3747

robjam20@gmail.com

From: [Makana Kiakona](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony: Pu'u Mā'eli'eli "nature sanctuary"
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 7:37:28 AM

January 28, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325 Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing as a concerned community member to express my strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. This project, as presented, raises significant concerns about its alignment with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program and the values it is intended to uphold. The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain preserved for future generations. However, the Bella Bond Foundation's proposal prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, rather than genuine conservation efforts. Their lack of a detailed stewardship plan—including commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or preserving cultural landmarks—speaks volumes about the true intent behind this project. This is not a conservation initiative; it is a commercial development disguised as one. Community engagement is a fundamental principle of responsible land stewardship. Yet, the Bella Bond Foundation has demonstrated minimal transparency and involvement with the local community. Their outreach appears limited to flyers and vague mentions of events, with no evidence of meaningful consultation with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or local residents who would be most affected by this development. Such a lack of genuine community involvement is deeply troubling and undermines the credibility of their proposal.

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Additionally, increased traffic and a lack of clear transportation plans will disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's conservation value. I deeply appreciate the Commission's dedication to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process provided for public input. I respectfully urge you to reject the Bella Bond Foundation's application and ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for its ecological, cultural, and community significance.

By upholding the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, the Commission can safeguard this vital 'āina for the health and well-being of the land and its people. Thank you for your time, diligence, and commitment to preserving Hawai'i's precious natural resources.

Sincerely,
Makanaonalani Kiakona
makanakiakona@gmail.com

GENERAL TEMPLATE LETTER FOR ANYONE TO USE

January 27, 2025

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Sincerely,

[Makana fraticelli-lagapa]

[makana.fraticelli@gmail.com

8087990966]

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Commission can safeguard this vital 'āina for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and commitment to preserving Hawai'i's precious natural resources.

Sincerely,

Mya Kuu iini Damaso

808-570-5230

damasomya@gmail.com

From: [Heidi Waiamau](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pu"u Mā"eli"eli
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 8:49:53 AM

January 28, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing on behalf of my family and myself to express our strong opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Land Legacy Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. Our family has lived on this ridge for generations and continues to reside here, with a deep connection to its land, history, and cultural significance. As individuals with expertise in conservation, education, farming, and community advocacy, we urge the Commission to reject this application.

The Land Legacy Conservation Program exists to protect lands with environmental, cultural, and community value, ensuring these areas remain unspoiled for future generations. Bella Bond's proposal, however, prioritizes profit-driven eco-tourism infrastructure under the guise of conservation. Their lack of a tangible stewardship plan—no commitments to managing invasive species, planting natives, or engaging in meaningful cultural preservation—speaks volumes. This is not a conservation project; it's a commercial Trojan horse.

Community engagement is a cornerstone of responsible land stewardship, yet the Bella Bond Foundation's approach has been anything but transparent. Their minimal efforts, limited to flyers and vague mentions of brunches, insult the intelligence and dignity of our community. Where are the conversations with cultural practitioners, conservation scientists, or the residents who will be most impacted by this development? The absence of true community involvement underscores the deceptive nature of this proposal.

The foundation's financial filings raise serious red flags. Their Form 990 reveals a sudden revenue increase to over \$500,000, with minimal programmatic spending of just \$19,626 and disproportionate administrative costs spent on travel and accommodations. Even more concerning is their lack of employees and only one reported volunteer, which raises significant doubts about their operational capacity to manage a project of this scale. Moreover, the individuals listed as the Foundation's leaders are nearly impossible to verify through any

meaningful public records or professional profiles. How does an organization with such opaque leadership and financial practices expect to gain the community's trust?

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is not just a piece of land; it is a vital part of our community's cultural heritage, environmental health, and resilience. Preserving this 'āina is critical to public health, particularly for Native Hawaiians, whose ancestral ties to the land are a source of identity and healing in the face of historical trauma. To allow such a deceptive and poorly planned project to proceed would be a disservice to this community and to the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program.

We deeply appreciate the Commission's commitment to protecting Hawai'i's conservation lands and the transparent process you provide for public input. We respectfully call upon you to uphold the mission and vision of the Land Legacy Conservation Program by rejecting this application. Together, we can ensure that Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge remains a sanctuary for the health and well-being of the land and its people.

Thank you for your time, diligence, and dedication to stewarding Hawai'i's precious natural resources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

Heidi Waiamau
kaheaz1@hotmail.com

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Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
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Sincerely,

Harley M. B. Miner
harleymbroyles@gmail.com

January 27, 2025

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Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
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Honolulu, HI 96813

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Thank you for your time, diligence, and dedication to stewarding Hawai'i's precious natural resources. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

Kimo Chun
92chunkimo@gmail.com

Addendum to Letter Opposing Bella Bond Foundation Proposal

Detailed Arguments and Supporting Questions

Misalignment with the Mission of Land Legacy Conservation Funds

The Bella Bond Foundation's proposal does not align with the mission of the Land Legacy Conservation Program, which emphasizes the preservation of lands with significant environmental, cultural, and community value. Instead, the proposal prioritizes infrastructure for eco-tourism, including treehouses, pathways, and kiosks, with no detailed plans for stewardship of the land.

Key Concerns:

- The lack of commitments to managing invasive species, planting native species, or preserving cultural landmarks undermines the conservation goals of the program.
- The inclusion of eco-tourism elements suggests a profit-driven motive disguised as conservation.

Questions:

1. How does the proposed infrastructure align with the conservation goals of the Land Legacy Conservation Program?
2. Why was the application not dismissed for lacking a robust stewardship plan?
3. What specific actions will the foundation take to ensure ecological preservation?

Lack of Community Engagement and Partnerships

Community engagement is essential for successful land stewardship. The Bella Bond Foundation's minimal efforts—limited to flyers and vague mentions of community brunches—demonstrate a lack of genuine interest in involving the local community or its stakeholders.

Key Concerns:

- No evidence of partnerships with local conservation experts, cultural practitioners, or organizations.
- The absence of meaningful consultation undermines the credibility of their claims of community benefit.

Questions:

1. What local organizations, cultural practitioners, or conservation experts have they partnered with?
2. How has the community been consulted prior to the submission of this application?
3. How does the foundation plan to involve the community in the ongoing management of the site?

Environmental and Cultural Impact

Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge is a fragile ecosystem with steep terrain that makes it unsuitable for farming or heavy infrastructure. The area also holds significant cultural value, and its conservation zoning reflects the need to preserve it for future generations.

Key Concerns:

- Farming on steep terrain could lead to erosion and environmental degradation.
- Development poses a threat to cultural sites and native ecosystems.

Questions:

1. How will the foundation address the risks of erosion associated with farming and infrastructure development?
2. What measures are in place to protect cultural sites and native ecosystems from disruption?
3. How does the proposal honor the cultural and historical significance of the ridge?

Financial Transparency and Viability

The Bella Bond Foundation's financial history raises serious concerns about their capacity to manage a project of this scale. Their Form 990 shows a dramatic revenue increase to over \$500,000, but their expenditures include minimal programmatic spending and disproportionately high administrative costs.

Key Concerns:

- Only \$19,626 was spent on program services, with significant funds allocated to travel and accommodations.
- The foundation lists no employees and only one volunteer, calling into question their operational capacity.
- The individuals listed as leaders of the foundation are difficult to verify through public records or professional profiles.

Questions:

1. How does the foundation justify its disproportionate spending on administrative costs and travel?
2. Why is there no evidence of active programs or initiatives tied to their stated mission?
3. Can the foundation demonstrate financial and operational capacity to sustain a project of this scale?

Increased Neighborhood Traffic and Disturbance

The proposed development would attract significant traffic to the area without providing adequate plans for parking or transportation management. This could disrupt the quiet residential community and harm the area's ecosystem.

Key Concerns:

- The reliance on rideshare services (e.g., Uber, Lyft) as a transportation plan is unrealistic and unsustainable.
- Increased traffic may lead to noise pollution, safety issues, and environmental harm.

Questions:

1. What transportation and parking plans are in place for visitors and staff?
2. How will the foundation mitigate the impact of increased traffic on the neighborhood?
3. What steps will be taken to ensure transportation plans align with conservation goals?

Misrepresentation of Sustainability

While the foundation claims to prioritize sustainability, the proposal's focus on infrastructure suggests otherwise. The emphasis on eco-tourism revenue undermines their claims of minimal environmental impact.

Key Concerns:

- The heavy focus on infrastructure is inconsistent with genuine sustainability efforts.
- No detailed plans for long-term ecological monitoring or land management.

Questions:

1. What is the foundation's definition of sustainability, and how does this proposal align with it?
2. How will the proposed infrastructure avoid degrading the land's natural state?
3. What are the long-term plans for ecological monitoring and maintenance?

January 28, 2025

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Makanaonalani Kiakona
makekakiakona@gmail.com

From: [JLR](#)
To: [DLNR.FW.LLCC](#)
Cc: [JLR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bella Bond Foundation request for Funding
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 9:26:41 AM

January 28, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Members of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission,

I am writing on behalf of my 'ohana (Reppun-Mahelona-Chartrand) in opposition to the Bella Bond Foundation's application for Legacy Lands Conservation funds to develop a proposed "nature sanctuary" on Pu'u Mā'eli'eli ridge in Kahalu'u, Hawai'i. Generations of Reppuns have and continue to live on property abutting the Conservation-zoned area on Maeli'eli ridge; my wife's family (Lanette Mahelona & grandson La'amaikahiki Chartrand) both hail from the residential areas that skirt the same ridge from Pakole in Kahalu'u to He'eia Kea. We have always treasured the mauka land here and fought to protect it from development, respecting its land, history, and cultural significance. As individuals with expertise in conservation, education, farming, and community advocacy, we urge the Commission to reject this application.

Mahalo,
John L Reppun & extended 'ohana
(808)277-8686

Sent from JLR's iPhone



January 26, 2025

Division of Forestry and Wildlife - Legacy Land Conservation Commission (LLCC)
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: LLCC Meeting 88 Item 2A Hawaiian Kingdom Foundation Hane'o Fishpond Complex

Aloha Commissioners,

On behalf of Ke Ao Hāli'i (Save Hana Coast), I am writing to express our support for Item 2A Hawaiian Kingdom Foundation FY 2025 Application For Grant from the Land Conservation Fund for land acquisition TMK (2) 1-4-008:001 in Hana Maui. With the purchase of this coastal land which is historically and culturally significant and the resting place of our 'iwi kupuna, this sacred land will be managed by the Hana community and protected from unwanted development

Ke Ao Hāli'i (KAH) is a non profit organization (501.3c) whose kuleana is to protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources of the land and the customary and traditional practices of Native Hawaiians in perpetuity for the benefit, education and and enjoyment of future generations. Through the State Legacy Land Conservation Program and the County of Maui Open Space Fund, KAH has protected and are the stewards of over 150 acres of coastal land. We are willing to support this non-profit organization in developing a plan for the use of the land.

Mahalo for your consideration of our support for this Hana project,

Mahalo nui,

John "Irish" O'Hara, Chair

Cc: Leo Caires