



**Ka Moku'aina 'O Hawai'i Aha Moku O Pae'Aina**

**State of Hawai'i Aha Moku**

**P. O. Box 621**

**Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of the Hawaii State Aha Moku

Board of Land and Natural Resources

Friday, December 13, 2024

9:00 a.m.

DLNR Boardroom, Kalanimoku Bldg.

**SUPPORT – Agenda Item E-1**

Agenda Item E-1: Request for delegation of authority to the Chairperson to negotiate and issue a Revocable Permit (RP) for the Management of the Banquet Hall and Ancillary Facilities, with an Option to Manage, Maintain and Operate the Grounds, to a qualified applicant at He'eia State Park, Kane'ohe, O'ahu, Hawai'i Tax Map Key No.: (1) 4-6-005:por.009; and,

Request for Declaration of Exemption from Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the issuance of a Revocable Permit for the Management, Maintain and Operate the Grounds of He'eia State Park (SP).

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR),

On behalf of the generational and lineal descendants of the He'eia Ahupua'a, Moku O Ko'olaupoko, Mokupuni O Kakuhihewa (O'ahu) we offer our testimony.

**The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) supports agenda item E-1 as it pertains to He'eia State Park as stated above.**

We support the potential RP as outlined in the current State Park submittal as stating that this will:

- Allow State Parks to attempt to quickly solicit for a permittee to operate and manage the banquet hall AND ancillary facilities, and possibly the grounds to minimize disruption to public access in 2025 for customary uses such as weddings, baby luau's, graduations, reunions, and other community events;
- Additionally, during the term of a potential RP, if awarded, SP will continue to conduct outreach for a new managing long-term nonprofit, private sector partner or state entity for proposals for a long-term disposition for management support at He'eia State Park.

*Pae'Aina: Moku O Keawe, Moku O Piilani, Moku O Kanaloa, Nana'i Kaula, Moloka'i Pule O'o, Moku O Kakuhihewa, Manokalanipo, Ka'Aina O Kawelonakala*

However, In our testimony before the Land Board on November 8, 2024, Aha Moku supported State Parks Mutual Cancellation of General Lease No. SP0067, Kamaaina Care, Inc. He'eia State Park, TMK Nos: (1)4-6-005:002, 004, and 009, our testimony also stated:

The cancellation is in the best interests of the communities of Kane'ohe, particularly those of He'eia Ahupua'a. We strongly support the recommendation of the Division of State Parks to:

1. Approve the mutual cancellation of the Kama'aina Care, Inc. in the manner specified by law and further be subject to the following conditions:
  - a. **Require the Lessee to conduct a "Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment as well as complete abatement and disposal;**
  - b. Require the Lessee to remove agreed-upon improvements constructed, stored, and erected by the Lessee on the leased premises and provide sufficient notice to all affected users of the facilities.
2. Terminate the lease and all rights effective as of January 01, 2025.
3. The State shall accept any donated funds and improvements by the Lessee at no charge to the Lessor.

**As far as we are aware, the Land Board adopted the submittal and recommendation of State Parks (as submitted on November 8, 2024.**

Now, in the current SP submittal, it is being requested that Chapter 343 – the Environmental Assessment, Attachment A, SP is requesting that the Environmental Assessment be exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to General Exemption Cass No. 1:

“In accordance with the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §11-200.1 and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources concurred by the Environmental Council on November 10, 2020, the subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to General Exemption Class No. 1: “Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion or change of use beyond that previously existing,” Part 1, Item 4, “Operation, repair and maintenance, of existing structures and facilities, including baseyards, offices, cabins, sheds, and fencing,” and Item 45. “Permits, licenses, registrations, and rights-of-entry issued by the Department that are routine in nature, involving negligible impacts beyond that previously existing.” Attached as Exhibit A. (Staff submittal, Agenda E-1, December 13, 2024)

We ask the Land Board to help us in our understanding of two decisions made one month apart that pertain to the same issue. We also sincerely ask for the Land Board's forgiveness and understanding if we have mis-stepped in our testimony. Aha Moku has always collaborated and worked with a clear conscience with the divisions of DLNR. Our respect for the divisions is deep and true.

Respectfully yours,

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/Executive Director  
Hawaii State Aha Moku  
[Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov](mailto:Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov)



***Jones 'Ohana  
Komomua 'Ohana  
P.O. Box 4736  
Kane'ohe, HI 96744***

Testimony of the Jones 'Ohana and the Komomua 'Ohana  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Friday, December 13, 2024  
9:00 a.m.  
DLNR Boardroom, Kalanimoku Building

Agenda Item E-1: Request for delegation of authority to the Chairperson to negotiate and issue a Revocable Permit (RP) for the Management of the Banquet Hall and Ancillary Facilities, with an Option to Manage, Maintain and Operate the Grounds, to a qualified applicant at He'eia State Park, Kane'ohe, O'ahu, Hawai'i Tax Map Key No.: (1) 4-6-005:por.009; and,

Request for Declaration of Exemption from Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the issuance of a Revocable Permit for the Management, Maintain and Operate the Grounds of He'eia State Park (SP).

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR),

On behalf of the generational and lineal descendants of the He'eia Ahupua'a, Moku O Ko'olaupoko, Mokupuni O Kakuhihewa (O'ahu) we offer our testimony.

The Jones 'Ohana and the Komomua 'Ohana support agenda item E-1 as it pertains to He'eia State Park as stated above. But, we do have questions and concerns. But in order for you to understand our concerns, we believe it is important that you know our history!

Background

The Jones 'Ohana is comprised of 300+ members who are lineal descendants of Kanaina, the father of King Lunalilo. I, Leialoha Rocky Jones Kaluhiwa is a direct lineal descendant (my great-grandfather was Kanaina) whose family have been the konohiki of He'eia for the past 300 years. Koa O Mokumoku o He'eia, the high Chiefess of He'eia who was the wife of Komomua.

The Komomua 'Ohana are the traditional cultural practitioners of disciplines such as La'au Lapa'au (medicinal), Lawaia (fishermen), Mahiai (agriculture), Loko'ia (fishpond), and Kahuna

(religion) as well as many other traditional practices. Their membership numbered over 3,000 at their last reunion in 2023. As such, our kuleana is a sacred and noble one – one of protecting our natural and cultural resources of La'e O Kealohi (He'eia State Park).

Encompassed in La'e O Kealohi is a sacred laina – the jumping off point where souls depart this life and leap into the afterlife. This is the most sacred place in terms of traditional native Hawaiian religious practices of the Moku of Ko'olaupoko – incorporating the ahupua'a of Kualoa, Hakipu'u, Waikane, Waihole, Ka'alaea, Waihe'e, Kahalu'u, He'eia, Kaneohe, Mokapu, Kailua, Waimanalo and Maunaloa.

Prior to 1973, La'e O Kealohi was owned by Matson Point Partners. From 1973 to 1978, the families and members of the Public Trust who lived in He'eia testified to have the area become a state cultural passive park. This was designated due to its strong historical cultural significance. He'eia State Park was established in 1978 by the people – the very people who now make up the Jones 'Ohana and the Komomua 'Ohana.

The He'eia State Park was established in 1978 by the people of the generational and lineal descendants of the original cultural families connected to the He'eia Ahupua'a, the families of the Jones 'Ohana and the Komomua 'Ohana.

#### Concern

Our concern centers on the State Parks request in their current submittal to exempt the proposed Environmental Assessment. We believe that an Environmental Assessment report is critical to a statement and description of areas within the State Park that are not in the pristine condition it was in prior to the last lessee. (For example, where are the kupuna iwi that were known to be buried along the coastline of La'e O Kealohi?) Although this is not listed within the Agenda Item, it would be noted in an Environmental Assessment.

We ask for the advice and understanding of the Land Board in this issue. While a State Park is always open to the Public Trust, it also has a kuleana to the native Hawaiian culture and its people of this land, the people of He'eia who consider La'e O Kealohi a sacred wahi pana.

Respectfully yours,

Leialoha Rocky Kaluhiwa, Pelekikena  
Jones 'Ohana  
808-286-7955  
[Rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com](mailto:Rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com)

Kawaikapuokalani Komomua Hewett, Pelekikena  
Komomua 'Ohana  
808-382-6043  
[kahalelehua@hotmail.com](mailto:kahalelehua@hotmail.com)