



**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-2**

Agenda Item E-2: Approval to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ)/Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development and operation of a commercial campground and public day use Beach Park at Malaekahana State Recreation Area, Kahuku Section, La'ie, Ko'olauloa, O'ahu, Hawaii, Tax Map Keys: (1)5-6-001:024-025, 045-047, 049, 051 AND 053-65; and,

Delegate Authority to the Chairperson to appoint members to an Evaluation Committee and to Award and Execute a Long-Term Lease to the Selected Offeror; and,

Request the Issuance of the RFQ and RFP to be declared Exempt from the Requirements of Chapter 343, HRS and Title 11, chapter 200.1, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

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

On behalf of the generational and lineal descendants of the La'ie, Malaekahana and Keana Ahupua'a, Moku O Ko'olauloa, Mokupuni O Kakuhihewa (O'ahu) we offer our testimony.

**The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) supports agenda item E-2 as it pertains to Malaekahana State Recreation Area, Kahuku Section, La'ie as stated above.**

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

- Probably have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment. **Concern: without a detailed description of the environment and ecosystem of this beach area and coastline, it's traditional cultural practices both mauka and makai, how can it be known that there will be no significant effect on this environment and ecosystem?**
- Authorize the Chairperson to:
  - Appoint members to an evaluation committee that will establish the criteria to evaluate the proposals and select an offeror. **Concern: Who from the communities of La'ie, Malaekahana and Keana Ahupua'a will be approached? Are they native Hawaiian practitioners of traditional disciplines that are unique to this coastal area?**

*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*

- Issue a Request for Qualifications/Request for Proposals (RFQ/RFP) pursuant to Section 171-59(a), HRS for the selection of an offeror. **Concern: What are the criteria for an accepted RFQ/RFP? Who draws up the appropriate criteria from the community-at-large?**
- Accept and evaluate proposals submitted by prospective offerors. **Concern: Again, who evaluates prospective offerors? How can this public recreation area be protected from commercial activities that are not allowed in state public recreation areas (Malaekahana Beach Park)? (Per Bill 38 (2021) CD1.**
- Allow the Chairperson to issue a long-term lease (20 years or as determined through the RFP process) to the highest scoring applicant of the RFQ/RFP for recreational business and **commercial purposes** (concession contracts allowed) at Malaekahana State Recreation Area, Kahuku Section.

Further Background History

Originally, the Ko'olaupia Hawaiian Civic Club applied for the Malaekahana lease as a 501c3 non-profit. The park was managed by Friends of Malaekahana who formed their own 501c3 and eventually took over the lease. In checking the DCCA Business Registry, the Friends of Malaekahana Business License has expired. Per La'ie community members, the property has been managed by Kamaaina Kids until the start of the Renovation Project which is currently happening.

Respectfully yours,

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