

From: [Lahela Camara](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of Revocable Permit to Hawaii Island Art Alliance for Educational and Commercial Use Purposes
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 5:04:49 PM

Aloha,

I support the approval to Issue a Revocable Permit to Hawaii Island Art Alliance for Educational and Commercial Use Purposes, Wailoa Center, Wailoa River State Recreation Area, Hilo, Island of Hawai'i, Tax Map Key: (3) 2-2-013:003 (portion); and Declare the Issuance of Revocable Permit Exempt from the Requirements of an Environmental Assessment under Chapter 343, HRS and Title 11, Chapter 200.1, Hawai'i Administrative Rules.

Mahalo nui,
Lahela Camara

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Lahela Burgess Camara
'Imi Pono no ka 'Āina Program Coordinator
Three Mountain Alliance
Phone (808) 333-8241
lahelacamara@gmail.com

From: [Lauren DeMent](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of Revocable Permit to Hawaii Island Art Alliance for Educational and Commercial Use Purposes
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 3:43:38 PM

Aloha,

I support the approval to Issue a Revocable Permit to Hawaii Island Art Alliance for Educational and Commercial Use Purposes, Wailoa Center, Wailoa River State Recreation Area, Hilo, Island of Hawai'i, Tax Map Key: (3) 2-2-013:003 (portion); and Declare the Issuance of Revocable Permit Exempt from the Requirements of an Environmental Assessment under Chapter 343, HRS and Title 11, Chapter 200.1, Hawai'i Administrative Rules.

Mahalo nui,

Lauren DeMent

From: danhieux18@icloud.com
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly support Revocable Permit for Hawaii Island Art Alliance.
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 3:54:22 PM

Aloha all,

I strongly support the issuance of a Revocable Permit for Hawaii Island Art Alliance (HIAA) at the Wailoa Center.

HIAA a nonprofit has been providing financial, staffing and logistical support for most exhibits at the Wailoa Center for 10 years.

I must be transparent and identify myself as a founding board member of HIAA. Currently I'm a volunteer at Wailoa.

The revocable permit will allow HIAA to streamline the exhibit processes as well as allow local artists to sell their works to the public.

It removes the unnecessary process of submitting Special Use Permits aka SUPs.

It would have the added benefit of allowing HIAA to open and close the center allowing the center to offer extended hours that the current director simply can't do on her own. She needs to be able to take vacation, sick/personal days, attend professional development without having to worry about closing the center.

HIAA could more easily offer classes to the public.

Aloha,

Bob Douglas
danhieux18@icloud.com
[Instagram.com/danhieux](https://www.instagram.com/danhieux)
808 333-0402

From: [Cheri Groom](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for approval of Revocable Permit
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2025 12:55:50 AM

To the Board Members:

It was through a juried exhibit highlighting the indigenous wildlife of Hawaii Island that I first encountered the work done by the Hawaii Island Art Alliance. They opened a door to a path of creative expression. I have participated in many exhibits since then and through these experiences I have felt a deeper and more humbling respect for this beautiful island. Further, I saw that the work that HIAA was doing was of an extremely high level and was professionally executed in every way.

I was so inspired by what this non-profit was giving back to our community that I started volunteering in the Wailoa Center. It has been in this role that I have been a first-hand witness to the impact that this organization has had on our community. The exhibits are cultural, artistic, and educational. Older generations bring their keiki to HIAA events to introduce them to the fine and practical arts and to connect them to their cultural heritage.

Visitors come in and can't believe the high level of artistic expertise. They are often surprised to learn that these exhibitions are completely free-of-charge. Many inquire about where our donation box is. We have none, of course. People come of all ages and from all socio-economic-educational walks. Many come with groups of friends, with spouses or just by themselves to marvel at the extent of creative expression found in the exhibits.

The exhibits hosted by HIAA provide a reason to gather, to interact, to learn, and to feel a part of and pride in their community.

I have also participated in many of the learning opportunities that HIAA has provided through workshops, lectures, and talks about art and culture.

This is a great organization powered by passionate and committed volunteers. Yet I've also seen how lack of funding and revenue has been problematic at every turn. Visitors who come into the gallery exhibits can't contribute as they'd like.

The current system is unwieldy and deters many visitors from participating in the financial success of this valuable community asset.

That is why I am strongly in favor of approval of the Revocable Permit. It will help Hawaii Island artists. It will provide an often-requested service for the visitors. It will go a long way to insure the solvency of a vital non-profit so that cultural and art events can continue to thrive. And I believe that it will pay off with additional revenue sources for the State as well.

I encourage the Board to approve the Hawaii Island Art Alliance's Revocable Permit application.

Mahalo,

Cheri Groom
1177 Kaeokulani Place
Hilo, Hawai'i

From: [Kehau Nelson-Kaula](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of Revocable Permit to Hawaii Island Art Alliance for Educational and Commercial Use Purposes
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 3:30:15 PM

Aloha,

I support the approval to Issue a Revocable Permit to Hawaii Island Art Alliance for Educational and Commercial Use Purposes, Wailoa Center, Wailoa River State Recreation Area, Hilo, Island of Hawai‘i, Tax Map Key: (3) 2-2-013:003 (portion); and Declare the Issuance of Revocable Permit Exempt from the Requirements of an Environmental Assessment under Chapter 343, HRS and Title 11, Chapter 200.1, Hawai‘i Administrative Rules.

Mahalo nui,
Kehau Nelson-Kaula

From: [Amelie Sterling](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of Revocable Permit to Hawaii Island Art Alliance for Educational and Commercial Use Purposes
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 3:36:27 PM

Aloha mai kākou,

In collaboration with the Hawai‘i Island Art Alliance, I help coordinate the Hawai‘i Nei Art Exhibition which celebrates and brings awareness to our precious native species. This event takes place annually at Wailoa Center. I am reaching out in my support for the approval to Issue a Revocable Permit to Hawaii Island Art Alliance for Educational and Commercial Use Purposes, Wailoa Center, Wailoa River State Recreation Area, Hilo, Island of Hawa‘i, Tax Map Key: (3) 2-2-013:003 (portion); and Declare the Issuance of Revocable Permit Exempt from the Requirements of an Environmental Assessment under Chapter 343, HRS and Title 11, Chapter 200.1, Hawai‘i Administrative Rules. Approving this revocable permit will help to continue efforts that support environmental education programs and the perpetuation of our native species.

Mahalo nui loa,
Amelie Sterling