



HUI MAKA'ĀINANA O MAKANA

The Hui Maka'āinana o Makana is a non-profit organization dedicated to perpetuating and teaching the skills, knowledge, and practices of our kūpuna (ancestors) through the interpretation, restoration, care, and protection of the natural and cultural resources within Hā'ena State Park, Kaua'i.

January 29, 2025

Department of Land and Natural Resources
State Parks Division
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 310
Honolulu, HI 96813
Honorable Chair Dawn Chang

RE: New Comfort Station Project at Ha'ena State Park, Kauai, Hawaii
TMK: (4) 5-9-001:022 & (4) 5-9-008:001

Aloha Chair Chang,

We, the Hui Maka'āinana o Makana, who are operating under a Revocable Permit SP0002 for Ha'ena State Park have begun the construction of a new comfort station in the parking lot.

We intend to release the ownership of the HSP Comfort Station facility, septic system, and all other improvements upon completion of construction and final approval to DLNR, State Parks.

We appreciate your consideration and acceptance.

Respectfully,

Kathleen P. Chin

Kathleen P. Chin
Executive Director

cc: Hui MoM President
Alan Carpenter, State Parks Asst Administrator

Hui Maka‘āinana O Makana



The Hui Maka‘āinana o Makana is a non-profit organization dedicated to perpetuating and teaching the skills, knowledge, and practices of our kūpuna (ancestors) through the interpretation, restoration, care, and protection of natural and cultural resources in within the Hā‘ena State Park.

14 February 2025

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

I am testifying today in strong support of Agenda item E-1. Authorize the Construction of a Comfort Station, Septic System Improvements, and Associated Improvements at the Parking Lot at Hā‘ena State Park, Kaua‘i, Hawai‘i, Tax Map Key: TMK: (4) 5-9-008:001, by Hui Maka‘āinana o Makana

I am one of the five community leaders who incorporated the Hui Maka‘āinana o Makana in 1999 and have served on either their Board of Directors or on their Ohana Council ever since. I am currently an officer of the Hui and serve as the Secretary of the organization.

The Hui has been a close partner with State Parks for nearly over 26 years and starting in 2021 we transitioned from the role we had under a Curatorship Agreement, to an expanded management role under the terms of the 2021 Revokable Permit SP 0002 which is included in your Board submittal. During this time, we have worked closely with our partner The Hanalei Initiative and State Parks staff on both Kaua‘e i and Oahu to ensure that our management met, or exceeded, all of our collective expectations. It has been a very rewarding time, not without many challenges, that has really proven the value of our partnership - both for community and for the State but most especially for this ‘āina kupuna which deserves the respect and care that it is now getting.

Before you today is our request for approval of a project of unprecedented scope and impact. Never before has a community group taken the initiative to plan, permit and construct a capital project of this scale and complexity in a State Park. With a value that will exceed \$1.7 million just the cost is amazing but the real impact is what this facility will do to reduce the use of the only existing comfort station in the Park – which is located on top of *iwi kupuna* and on a sand dune close to the lagoon where visitors swim every day!

This project is the embodiment of the saying: “Community-Led, Government-Supported” and shows the commitment our community has to taking care of this cultural landscape. We have worked closely with State Parks staff as we navigated through a nearly 2-year long design and permitting process which the Hui supported financially – in fact, we have already spent well over \$200,000 just to get to the point where we can actually construct the facility.

Looking further down the road, we are anticipating being back in front of you in the next month or two to seek your approval of a long-term lease of HSP. We are proud to be a co-management partner with DLNR and are not only working with State Parks to manage HSP, we also work

closely DAR and DOBOR and DOCARE in our management of the Hā'ena Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) established in 2006 via HRS 188-22.9 and with our rules adopted and signed by the Governor in 2015 via HAR 13-60.8.

Finally, we are very appreciative that Karen Ono, our very competent BLNR rep for Kaua'i, came out to spend the morning with us last month to get an update on this project and all the other aspects of what the Hui is working on. Being able to see first-hand what the Hui is working on is invaluable and if any other BLNR members would like to come on a site visit, *e komo mai* we would welcome the opportunity to show you this very special part of our *pae 'āina*.

I plan to participate in the BLNR meeting on February 14 via zoom and will be happy to answer any questions you might have about the Hui or our request to approve this comfort station project (I am sure you are dying to know why DOH approved the Kāne IWS separately from the Wahine IWS).

Mahalo for your consideration of our request to construct a new comfort station while we operate under Revocable Permit 5P0002 issued to Hui Maka'āinana o Makana in 2021!

Me ka ha'a ha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chipper Wichman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chipper Wichman, Secretary
Hui Maka'āinana o Makana