



Dr. Mariya Gold, DACM  
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Kailua, Hawaii 96734  
808-262-4550  
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**RE: Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance of Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. for Storage of a Container and a Vehicle in the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor**

To the members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Aloha & mahalo for taking the time to consider the approval of this very important request. My name is Mariya Gold, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation's request to approve the issuance of a Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. for the storage containers and vehicle at the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor.

I have been involved with AccesSurf for many years, and this is a very exciting and much needed opportunity for them. Every time I'm able to volunteer at one of their events, whether it be a Day at the Beach, a Wounded Warrior event, or their annual international surf comp, I am blown away by what this organization can do with the limited resources and space they have. AccesSurf serves such a pivotal role in our community and provides such amazing opportunities for growth, comradery, appreciation of and respect for our environment and each other, it always restores my faith in humankind.

The equipment AccesSurf uses to provide such opportunities and access to the community is paramount to what they can offer. And I am aware that they have struggled for quite some time with finding the right space for this equipment. This opportunity of a storage space that is centralized and close to beach access will have a significant impact on the organization, operations and sustainability of this amazing organization, allowing for greater outreach and program expansion.

AccesSurf is an incredible asset to our beautiful and diverse state of Hawaii. Anything that we can do to support them in continuing their service to our community would be wise to support.

I highly recommend that the Board approve the issuance of the Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. so they can continue to offer access and transformative opportunities to our community.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo nui loa,

Dr. Mariya Gold, DACM  
Kailua Acupuncture Clinic  
808-262-4550

**From:** [Jon Hathaway](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4  
**Date:** Saturday, February 8, 2025 4:35:20 PM

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Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance of Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. for Storage of a Container and a Vehicle in the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor

Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Jon Hathaway and I am submitting a testimony in strong support of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation's request to approve the issuance of a Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. for the storage containers and vehicle at the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor.

I have been a volunteer for AccesSurf Hawaii for 2 years now and seen first hand the impact this organization has on some of the most vulnerable families and community members in Hawaii. Providing these days at the beach are the highlight of the month for so many people. It's also been a community building event on its own, bringing together many from across the state to provide services for those who need it.

These events and services are not possible without custom and LARGE donated surfboards which can be a challenge for volunteers to help store. I live in a condo and can't help store some of these 12 ft or larger surfboards. Storage and parking for the truck is critical for the continued success of the days at the beach and our current temporary / distributed storage is not sustainable.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve the issuance of the Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. so they can continue their important work in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Hathaway

[jonhath@gmail.com](mailto:jonhath@gmail.com), 808-699-5424, 987 Queen St #3415 Honolulu HI 96814

**From:** [Buster Kawasaki](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] My testimony  
**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025 11:23:23 AM

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Aloha!  
Here's my testimony ...

Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Buster Kawasaki, and I am submitting a testimony in strong support of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation's request to approve the issuance of a Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. for the storage containers and vehicle at the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor.

AccesSurf has been a transformative force in our community, providing individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience the healing power of the ocean through adaptive surfing. I have been fortunate to participate with them for the past 10 years. They have given me back my confidence in the water! This critical program fosters empowerment, physical well-being, and social inclusion for people of all abilities. In order to continue these life-changing services, AccesSurf requires storage for essential equipment, including surfboards, adaptive devices, and vehicles, which are necessary to facilitate their programs. Having a centralized space that is also close to beach access will have a tremendous impact on AccesSurfsustainability and operations.

The approval of this permit will ensure that AccesSurf can maintain and access the equipment required to provide its year-round services to people with disabilities, allowing for greater outreach and program expansion. Furthermore, AccesSurf plays an important role in promoting a positive image of Hawai'i as a place where inclusion and accessibility are prioritized, and it contributes significantly to the local community by fostering diversity and unity.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve the issuance of the Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. so they can continue their important work in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Buster Kawasaki

[bustah.k@gmail.com](mailto:bustah.k@gmail.com)

Blessings

Buster [bustah.k@gmail.com](mailto:bustah.k@gmail.com)

**From:** [Stephanie Nadolny](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. - Item J-4  
**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025 7:19:46 PM

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Aloha, Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to submit testimony in strong support of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation's request to approve the issuance of a Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. to place storage containers and a vehicle at the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor.

AccesSurf has been a transformative force in our community, providing individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience the healing power of the ocean through adaptive surfing and other water-based activities. This critical program fosters empowerment, physical well-being, and social inclusion for people of all abilities. In order to continue these life-changing services, AccesSurf requires storage for essential equipment, including surfboards, adaptive devices, and vehicles, which are necessary to facilitate their programs. Having a centralized space that is also close to beach access will have a tremendous impact on AccesSurf sustainability and operations. The approval of this permit will ensure that AccesSurf can maintain and access the equipment required to provide its year-round services to people with disabilities, allowing for greater outreach and program expansion.

I volunteer each month at AccesSurf's Day at the Beach (DATB) and it is quite a production to get truckloads of equipment to the beach, unloaded and then reloaded! Having the equipment in one location, that is easy and convenient to access, would be an incredible improvement for the staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to make these events successful. If you have never been to DATB, I encourage you to come and see the amount of work it takes to make the experience awesome for the participants.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve the issuance of the Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. so they can continue their important work in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Nadolny, CEO, Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific  
AccesSurf Hawaii, Board Member

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**Stephanie Nadolny**

***President and CEO***

REHAB Hospital of the Pacific  
226 North Kuakini Street | Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

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**From:** [Esther Newman](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance of Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc.  
**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025 1:01:34 PM

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To the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

My name is Esther Newman and I submit this testimony in support of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation's request to approve the issuance of a Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. for the storage containers and vehicle at the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor.

I first became aware of AccesSurf 10 years ago while on vacation in Hawaii, watching a team of volunteers assist someone into the water and onto a surfboard. I honestly thought disability would render this participant unable to enjoy the experience but boy, was I wrong. I watched the participant, in tandem with the surf instructor, catch a wave and saw the biggest smiles break out on both their faces. The cheers from the beach just added to the joy and I knew this was an organization I wanted to join. In fact, I moved here 9 years ago in large part because of that experience and have regularly volunteered for AccesSurf events ever since. Initially, I was impressed by the warm and welcoming atmosphere of the staff and volunteers but the more I volunteered, the more I came to witness and admire their professionalism and dedication.

Executive Director Cara Short has assembled a remarkable staff that sustains the vision of the founders of AccesSurf, Rich Julian and Mark Marble. Every program, from Day at the Beach, Wounded Warrior Day at the Beach and hosting the Hawai'i Adaptive Surfing Championships, enriches the lives of so many people on Oahu and abroad. Program participants and volunteers alike find community, acceptance, healing, and joy through AccesSurf. I support their mission and encourage the Board of Land and Natural Resources to do the same by approving their request for space at Ala Wai Harbor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Esther Newman

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Esther Newman  
92-747 Nohona St.  
Kapolei HI 96707  
858-888-2236

**From:** [Carter Parry](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance of Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. for Storage of a Container and a Vehicle in the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor  
**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025 2:35:09 PM

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Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Carter Parry, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation's request to approve the issuance of a Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. for the storage containers and vehicle at the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor.

As an adaptive surfer with one leg, one lung, and no toes, I know firsthand how transformative the ocean can be for individuals with disabilities. AccesSurf has been a life-changing resource for me, providing a way to connect with the healing power of the water through adaptive surfing. This program doesn't just teach surfing—it fosters empowerment, physical well-being, and a true sense of belonging.

To continue providing these invaluable services, we need space to store our surfboards, adaptive devices, and vehicles. The proposed storage area at the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor would not only allow us to safely house our equipment but also provide easy access to the beach, making our programs more sustainable and efficient.

Approving this permit will ensure that we can continue offering these essential services to individuals with disabilities year-round. It will also help expand our outreach, enabling us to serve even more people. Moreover, AccesSurf's efforts showcase the inclusive spirit of Hawai'i, a place that prioritizes accessibility and brings our community closer together.

I strongly encourage the Board to approve the Revocable Permit for AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc., allowing us to continue our vital work and empower more individuals to experience the ocean, just like I have.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Carter Parry

44-415 Kaneohe Bay Drive, Kaneohe HI 96744  
808-909-7797



**From:** [Gabe Ruiz](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance of Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. for Storage of a Container and a Vehicle in the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 3:47:18 PM

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Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Gabriel Ruiz, and I am submitting a testimony in strong support of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation's request to approve the issuance of a Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. for the storage containers and vehicle at the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor.

I am currently the program Coordinator for AccesSurf. I am also a Hawai'i State Certified EMT and a licensed ship captain. I had volunteered with AccesSurf since 2014, and chose to work for AccesSurf in 2024 due to the tremendous passion that volunteers and staff have for the mission of this organization. Not only does this organization directly impact participants with disabilities and their families, but the effect it has on those of us who have volunteered can only be described as pure aloha. The joy that is felt from being part of something much bigger than oneself spreads into our everyday lives and into every corner of our community.

I know first-hand what the struggles are that keep this organization from reaching even more people, participants and volunteers alike. Storage at this location would allow us to be able to maintain our current equipment in a timely manner, allocate money being used to store our van towards programs, provide access to adaptive equipment to those that need it in town, and opens the possibility for us to partner with surf schools and other community partners.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve the issuance of the Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. so we can continue our important work in the community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

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Gabriel Ruiz  
Program Coordinator  
(808) 236-4200

**AccesSurf Hawaii**

[www.accessurf.org](http://www.accessurf.org)

## **Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance of Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. for Storage of a Container and a Vehicle in the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor**

Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Jim Russell, and I am submitting a testimony in strong support of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation's request to approve the issuance of a Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. for the storage containers and vehicle at the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor.

I have been a volunteer with AccesSurf for twelve years now and have seen firsthand the amazing contributions to the community that this incredible non-profit brings. Not just serving those with disabilities ocean and other program opportunities, but providing for a community of volunteers that come together to serve their local community. Watching a participant access the ocean, a pool, a kayak, or even just accessing the beach, sometimes for the first time ever, is a beautiful and powerful experience. The freedom and empowerment these programs bring to participants as well as the awareness and opportunity to give back for volunteers cannot be overstated.

These programs and events though require an exceptionally large amount of equipment pieces, boards, safety items, access mats, tents, mobility chairs etc. transported to the sites to ensure safe and effective activities. Storing and accessing the equipment has been a challenge from the start and becomes more of a challenge as we continue to grow to help an even broader community.

The approval of this permit will ensure that AccesSurf can maintain and access the equipment required to provide its year-round services to people with disabilities, allowing for greater outreach and program expansion. Furthermore, AccesSurf plays an important role in promoting a positive image of Hawai'i as a place where inclusion and accessibility are prioritized, and it contributes significantly to the local community by fostering diversity and unity.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve the issuance of the Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. so they can continue their important work in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Russell

USAF, Retired

[Docrussell@hotmail.com](mailto:Docrussell@hotmail.com)

808-594-9924