

**From:** [Harold Fujii](#)  
**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:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 11:20:55 AM

---

Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Harold Fujii 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. This critical program fosters empowerment, physical well-being, and social inclusion for people of all abilities. In order to continue these life-changing services,

I can personally attest to the many magical moments that AccesSurf has provided throughout its many years. Countless amount of “Make a Wish” moments, ones last wish to feel the kai before passing, and the “chicken skin” beaming smiles of the participants at each of their events are moments one never forgets. Please do whatever it takes so AccesSurf can continue to provide this valuable service.

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.

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,

Harold H. Fujii  
(808) 780-7116

**From:** [M.Hoff](#)  
**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:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 10:27:44 PM

---

Aloha Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Mark Hoff 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.

As a volunteer at multiple events, I have worked with AccesSurf to set up and stage events as well as take down and put away the equipment. One thing I've noticed is the ease and pace of completing many tasks is hindered by the location and proximity of the equipment, and the planning required to access and transport the gear. 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's sustainability and operations.

To witness the impact that AccesSurf has on so many members of our community has been inspiring and unforgettable. The involvement from schools, universities, government groups, private organizations, young, old, able-bodied, and assisted; efforts are tremendous and unifying. AccesSurf is a transformative force in our community, providing individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience the healing power of the ocean through adaptive surfing. This critical program fosters empowerment, physical well-being, and social inclusion for people of all abilities.

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,

Mark Hoff

Volunteer

**From:** [Meggan Hoff](#)  
**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:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 11:02:25 PM

---

Aloha members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Meggan Hoff 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 positively impacted the community by offering adaptive surfing programs that empower individuals with disabilities, promoting physical health and social inclusion. To sustain these services, the organization needs storage for essential equipment like surfboards, adaptive devices, and vehicles. A centralized storage space near the beach would greatly improve AccesSurf's operations and long-term sustainability.

For the last year, I have had the fortunate opportunity to work directly with the equipment team, as one of the team leaders. We regularly juggle the distribution and storage of the equipment, even resorting to our own garage space and homes to house it between events. Proper storage ensures that our valuable resources remain organized, protected, and easily accessible, reducing the risk of damage or loss. Without a designated space, equipment can become misplaced or deteriorate, leading to unnecessary costs and delays in serving our community. A secure storage area will streamline our operations, allowing us to focus more on our mission and less on logistical challenges.

Additionally, we have been approached by community members and AccesSurf participants who would like to donate their adaptive devices and boards to our organization. It is unfortunate when we have to turn away useful and expensive gear due to space constraints.

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,

Meggan Hoff

Volunteer and Community Member

**From:** [BJ Lynch](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:46:52 PM

---

## **Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance 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 Brian Lynch, 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. 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's 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.

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,  
Brian Lynch  
808-387-1049

**From:** [KRL](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:52:05 PM

---

## **Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance 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 Kieran Lynch, 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. 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's 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.

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,

Kieran Lynch

808-979-5688

**From:** [lynchngs](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:49:49 PM

---

## **Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance 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 NG Lynch, 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. 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's 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.

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,  
NG Lynch

**From:** [TJ Lynch](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:48:20 PM

---

## **Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance 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 Thomas Lynch, 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. 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's 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.

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,  
Thomas Lynch  
808-492-9832

**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 Mark Mateja, 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.

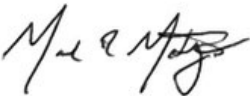
AccessSurf's mission to empower people with disabilities through adaptive water sports and beach access creates transformative opportunities that extend far beyond the shoreline. By providing inclusive programs and specialized equipment, AccesSurf ensures that individuals with disabilities can fully participate in ocean-based activities, fostering a sense of independence, confidence, and belonging. This work not only enriches the lives of participants but also strengthens the larger community. AccesSurf is vital in bridging the gap between individuals with disabilities and the joy and healing power of the ocean. The organization's commitment to creating a welcoming environment for all has made a profound impact, uniting volunteers, families, and participants in a shared vision of equality and empowerment.

To continue meeting the expanding needs of the community, AccesSurf requires adequate storage solutions and infrastructure for its adaptive equipment. These tools are essential to its operations. With proper storage, AccesSurf can maintain its equipment, streamline program resources, and expand its reach to serve more individuals and families. Supporting AccesSurf is an investment in a stronger community that values the contributions and potential of all its members. Your support will help ensure that AccesSurf continues to provide life-changing experiences that break down barriers, build connections, and inspire generations to come.

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,



Mark Mateja  
mrm808@hotmail.com

**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 Eddie Murai 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 providing individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience the healing power of the ocean through adaptive surfing and other ocean/water related programs since 2006. We began with just a small handful of volunteers and have grown in to a community of people that care to share their Aloha with everyone, regardless of their condition.

These free programs result in the empowerment, physical well-being, and social inclusion for people of all ages and all abilities. The need for AccesSurf to have a centrally located storage facility is the key to our success in this next chapter of our existence. Not only is our specialized equipment much larger than the typical surfboard, it is also much more expensive and security needs to be a priority.

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. To be kind is what AccesSurf strives to be.

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.

We are humbled and appreciate the consideration.

Sincerely,



Eddie Murai

Board Chair  
AccessSurf Hawaii, Inc.  
[www.accessurf.org](http://www.accessurf.org)

**From:** [Jon Price](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 6:43:52 PM

---

## **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 Price, 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. 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. 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,

Jon K. Price  
46-034 Pu'u lena St. #716

Kaneohe, Hi 96744

[Jkpoahu@gmail.com](mailto:Jkpoahu@gmail.com)

**From:** [CAP Commander](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:58:52 PM

---

## **Testimony in Support of Agenda Item J-4: Issuance 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 Edison Santo, 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. 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's 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.

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,

**1st Lt. Edison Santo**

77th Saint Louis Crusaders Composite Squadron Commander

**Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Air Force Auxiliary**

(M) 808.389.5932

(O) 808.739.4844

[GoCivilAirPatrol.com](http://GoCivilAirPatrol.com)



*Volunteers serving America's communities, saving lives, and shaping futures.*

**Note about Communications with Cadets:** The "Rule of Three" for Cadet Protection applies even when Senior Members (SM) are calling, emailing, and texting Cadets. So please ensure that a Cadet Parent/Guardian (P/G) is included in all your communications to/from Cadets and that one P/G is also present when conversing on the phone with Cadets. All Cadets, Parents, and SM are responsible for ensuring that we do this all the time.

**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 Craig Short, 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. 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. 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,

Craig E. Short  
1992 S. Louis Dr.  
Honolulu, Hi 96816  
craigeshort@gmail.com

**ANN H. YOSHIDA**  
**(808)398-1330 | LIFEACCESSED@GMAIL.COM**

**2/10/25**

**Dear Chairperson and Members of BLNR and DOBOR,**

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in essential 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, included in Gateway to Waikiki plan. This proposal is a step to ensure equitable and inclusive access to the ocean for all individuals. As we consider this important issue, I humbly ask that we ground our approach in Hawaiian values that emphasize kuleana (responsibility), and aloha (love and respect for others).

The ocean, or kai, is not just a recreational resource, it is a vital part of our identity, history, and culture here in Hawai'i. The ocean sustains the people physically, spiritually, and emotionally. It is a place of healing (ho'ōla), learning ('ike), and connection (pilina). For generations, Native Hawaiians and residents have understood that the well-being of the people is intertwined with the health and accessibility of the land and ocean. We see the health of the people directly impacted with their individual connection to the land and ocean. Accessibility to these resources make connection possible.

Many individuals in our community, including kupuna (elders), keiki (children), those with disabilities, and underserved populations, face barriers to accessing and experiencing the ocean. The impact this exclusion have physical, social, mental and spiritual implications. People with disabilities are more than 50% less likely to access natural environments to that of people without disabilities This is goes against the Hawaiian value of laulima (working together for the collective good) and pono (doing what is right and just).

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, paddling and swimming. The power of this organization is the community it builds around inclusive access to our natural resources. By investing in support of AccesSurf, you will invest in inclusive advocacy, infrastructure, adaptive equipment, 18 years of knowledge and expertise in the ensuring everyone has the opportunity to connect with the ocean and foster a relationship with this life-giving resource. The power of creating an identity in the ocean has endless possibilities.

Furthermore, this permit will align with an organization that reflects the principle of aloha kekahi i kekahi (loving and respecting one another). In addition, 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. By prioritizing equity and inclusivity, we create a society that reflects the spirit of aloha, where no one is excluded from the healing and restorative benefits of the ocean. We have seen the benefits of providing accessibility to the ocean for over 18 years at AccesSurf. Some of the benefits includes people feeling comfortable with their bodies after hating their body image; individuals creating a lifestyle of health and wellness in the ocean when they never thought possible; building a body of knowledge in research on Ocean fitness including people with disabilities; individuals being

included in a community where they are normally excluded; sharing opportunities for individuals that builds identity of being a water person; people training and sharing the benefits of water accessibility around the world. The impact is limitless. Can you imagine how powerful a community would be if the future of Hawaii is accessible? There is an ocean of possibilities ahead.

As someone who is a Hawaii watermen inductee, paralympic paddler, world champion adaptive surfer, rehabilitation healthcare professional and ocean coach/trainer, I have seen how much I have changed the world with my contribution of ocean accessibility in collaboration with AccesSurf. If not for the decision I made to access the ocean, I would not have been able to see what was possible because I regained my identity in the ocean and found the power that identity in the ocean has in my life. I have seen the profound physical and emotional healing that comes from time spent in the kai. Whether it is through cultural practices like he'e nalu (surfing), hi'uwai (ocean cleanse), hoe wa'a (canoe paddling), 'au 'au kai (swimming), lawai'a (fishing) or simply feeling cool ocean currents calm and balance me, the ocean connects us to something greater than ourselves that can unleash a power that helps us change the world.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve the issuance of the Revocable Permit to AccesSurf Hawaii, Inc. as a reflection of our shared values and collective kuleana to one another and to future generations. By doing so, we affirm that access to the ocean is not a privilege but it is a right that should be protected and nurtured for all.

Mahalo nui loa for your leadership and commitment to this critical issue. I am happy to answer any questions or provide additional support as needed.

Me ke aloha,

**Ann Yoshida** 

**(808)398-1330**

**Lifeaccessed@gmail.com**