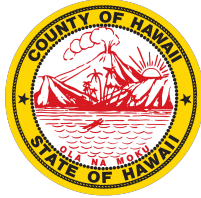


Michelle M. Galimba
Council District 6
Portion N. S. Kona/Ka'ū /Volcano



Phone: (808) 323-4277
Cell: (808)430-4927
Fax: (808) 329-4786
Email: Michelle.Galimba@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

April 23, 2025

Aloha Chair Chang and Directors of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I would like to express my strong support for Item C-1 and specifically for items B and D which are located in Hawai'i County Council District 6 o These are extraordinary opportunities to support the conservation of the land and ocean in perpetuity.

In particular funding for item B, the the acquisition of the Hīlea tract, 1916 acres of native forest, non-native forest and agricultural land, is an opportunity to protect landscapes and ecosystems, as well as protect agricultural land, that has become increasingly rare. This acquisition will protect the wahi pana of Makanau and Pakua mountains, as well as the watershed of Hīlea.

Funding for item D will provide support for an innovative and timely program to support the South Kona in its efforts to protect and steward Kealakekua Bay.

Thank you for your consideration, and for all you do for our community and State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Galimba".



Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo

Post Office Box 903

Nā'ālehu, HI 96772

kaohanaohonuapo@gmail.com

State of Hawai'i
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Board of Land & Natural Resources
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HI 96809

23 April 2025

Re: Strong support for protection of the Hīlea Property, comprised of approximately 1,916 acres, TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001, Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island (Hīlea) with Legacy Land Funding (BLNR 4/25/25 Meeting Agenda Item C(1)B.

Aloha esteemed members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo (KOOH) is pleased to provide strong support for the April 25, 2025 BLNR meeting agenda item #C1 related to the (B) Hīlea acquisition and nomination by The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra ("TNC") in partnership with our nonprofit for the fee simple acquisition of real property identified by TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001 and located in the Hīlea Nui Ahupua'a and Hīlea Iki Ahupua'a of the Ka'ū moku on Hawai'i Island (the "Hīlea Property").

We believe the Hīlea Property should be protected in perpetuity, which is why we first submitted this nomination to the Legacy Land Commission. The Hīlea Property consists of 1,916 acres of ecologically and culturally important land that is cherished by the local community and threatened by development. The Pakua pu'u on the property contains approximately 340 acres of high-quality native 'ōhia and uluhe fern forest that is habitat for several listed species (e.g., native honeycreepers and Hawaiian Hoary bat) and home to numerous native plants. The forest is well-preserved due to the steep terrain of Pakua that keeps out the cattle that graze on the surrounding high-quality agricultural lands. The Hīlea Property is adjacent to other protected lands – the Kaiholena management unit of the TNC Ka'ū Preserve and the State of Hawai'i Ka'ū Forest Reserve. Kohaikalani Heiau, which is located on the southern edge of the plateau on the summit of Makanau, has great significance in Hawaiian history and is extremely important to the people of Ka'ū.

Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo is a community-based, non-profit organization whose mission is to:
"To restore, care for and protect the natural and cultural resources within the Honu'apo area. Utilizing the values of Mālama 'Āina (care for the land), Kūpono (honesty and integrity), and

Kuleana (duty and responsibility), we will work in community partnerships to preserve this area for future generations.”

We believe TNC is the right land trust to own and steward the Hīlea Property because it has an excellent reputation as a land steward within the Ka‘ū community, has the skills and resources necessary to mālama the Hīlea Property as an addition to its Ka‘ū Preserve, and would develop a management plan for the property in coordination with lineal descendants, community members, and community groups such as KOOH.

In conclusion, we strongly support the Legacy Land application submitted by TNC (and KOOH) for protection of the Hīlea Property in perpetuity, and hope that the Board decides to move forward with the funding allocations as suggested by the LLC Commission and as proposed during this hearing with agenda item C1 using the Fiscal Year 2025 Land Conservation fund.

Mahalo,

Nohealani Kaawa

KOOH Board President

e: kaawa.nohea@gmail.com

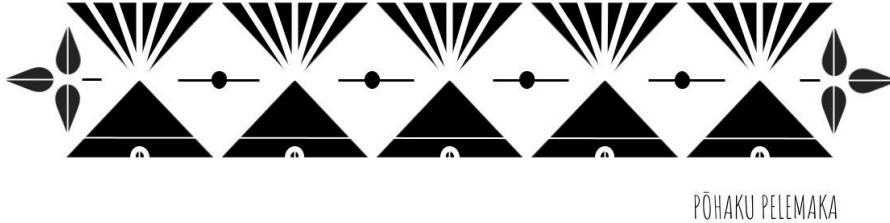
John Replogle

KOOH Co-founder and Loko Coordinator

e: jrepsr@gmail.com

§ all other 2025 Ka ‘Ohana O Honu‘apo Board of Directors, including:

- Daniel Dierking, Vice President
- Kenneth Sugai, Treasurer
- Megan Lamson Leatherman, Secretary
- Jodie Rosam, Director



13-3749 Old Kalapana Road
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778
(808) 965-6585
leila@pohakupelemaka.org
EIN 46-2653495

April 22, 2025

Re: BLNR Testimony, April 25, 2025: Agenda Item #1-D:
“Support for the protection and purchase of Kōkua Kealakekua, South Kona, Hawai‘i Island.”

To Whom it May Concern,

Pōhaku Pelemaka, 501c3 non profit strongly supports the South Kona community, Hō‘ala Kealakekua Nui, and Trust for Public Land’s effort to purchase and protect Kōkua Kealakekua (1.26 acres, TMK (3) 8-1-009:007 and TMK (3) 8-1-009:008) in Ka‘awaloa, South Kona, Hawai‘i Island.

Kōkua Kealakekua is strategically located across the road from the popular Ka‘awaloa trailhead (Captain Cook Monument Trail), which is the main public access to the north end of Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park. Like many beloved places across Hawai‘i, Kealakekua faces severe challenges due to unmanaged tourism and overuse. Protecting this property will empower the community and nonprofit Hō‘ala Kealakekua Nui to protect and steward the cultural and natural resources of Kealakekua Bay by providing a managed gateway to the Bay and an interpretive center for restoration and cultural programs.

Hō‘ala Kealakekua Nui is a Native Hawaiian-led non-profit whose mission is to engage in collaborative stewardship of Kealakekua Bay’s natural and cultural landscape for the benefit of the whole community, including guests and generations to come, through active restoration, outreach and education.

Pōhaku Pelemaka’s mission is to protect, perpetuate, and enhance: the intrinsic qualities of the lower Puna area, Native Hawaiian wellbeing, and the transmission of intergenerational knowledge and practices in partnership with ‘ohana (family), county, state, government, public and private sectors.

Vision

Pōhaku Pelemaka’s educational, charitable and scientific purpose is to Aloha ‘Āina (reconnect, study, steward, protect, enhance, maintain, and celebrate) the lower Puna areas, the communities, and natural resources through culturally grounded programs and partnerships.

- Interviews of Kupuna, lineal and cultural descendants (kupa ‘āina)
- Nā Lau‘ō ‘o Ka‘akepa monthly Lā Aloha ‘Āina

- Ho'owehe I Ka Niu 'Ohana camp
- Support for the implementation of the Puna Community Development Plan as it pertains to the Red Road Area and sponsoring the Hwy 137 Red Road Scenic Byway; and
- Supporting community initiatives in conformity with its mission.

We feel Hō'ala Kealakekua Nui shares the same values and beliefs and the preservation and protection of the transmission of intergenerational knowledge and practices of the Kealakekua 'ohana and community. We recently joined the Holomua Marine Initiative cohort that is focused on community-based stewardship of wahi pana across Hawaii Island which is where we met the 'ohana of Hō'ala Kealakekua Nui.

The 'aina that Hō'ala Kealakekua Nui is working to protect and preserve is critical to address the overuse and misuse of tourism activities. If this property were to be developed it would have severe negative impacts to the natural and cultural resources and the loss of generational ties for 'ohana of this area.

Pōhaku Pelemaka will benefit from this property being protected as it allows lineal descendants and 'ohana of Kealakekua retaining stewardship of this wahi pana. It is our aspiration to see this type of Aloha 'Āina to occur across our pae 'aina.

We appreciate your time and consideration for listening to the voices of our people and allowing Hō'ala Kealakekua Nui to be the stewards of this 'aina.

Mahalo,



Leila Kealoha
Executive Director, Pōhaku Pelemaka
13-3749 Old Kalapana Road
Pahoa, HI 96778
(808) 937-7991
leila@pohakupelemaka.org

April 23, 2025

Board of Land and Natural Resources
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Strong Support for Division of Forestry and Wildlife's Request for Approval of Grant to The Nature Conservancy for Acquisition of Land in the Hīlea Nui and Hīlea Iki Ahupua'a, Ka'ū Moku, Hawai'i Island (Item C(1)(B) on Agenda for April 25, 2025 BLNR Meeting)

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board:

The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra ("TNC") strongly supports the Division of Forestry and Wildlife's request for approval of its grant to TNC of:

1. \$2,000,000 from the Fiscal Year 2025 Land Conservation Fund for the fee simple acquisition of approximately 1,916 acres of real property identified by TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001 and located in the Hīlea Nui and Hīlea Iki ahupua'a of the Ka'ū moku on Hawai'i Island (the "Hīlea Property"); and
2. An exemption from the conservation easement requirement set forth by Section 173(A)-4 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS").

TNC is sincerely grateful for and humbled by the preliminary award of \$2,000,000 from the Land Conservation Fund. TNC aims to close the acquisition deal for the Hīlea Property by September 2028. After closing, TNC will add the Hīlea Property to TNC's Ka'ū Preserve and manage the property in perpetuity. TNC will update its management plan for the Ka'ū Preserve in coordination with stakeholders, including lineal descendants, community groups such as partner Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo, and other interested community members.

Since presenting our grant application to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission on January 30, 2025, three aspects of the project have changed. First, we estimate the Fair Market Value purchase price will be \$7,500,000 rather than our previous estimate of \$4,500,000. Second, we estimate our other expenses will cost up to \$147,000 rather than our previous estimate of \$48,000. Accordingly, we now estimate matching funds will provide 73.84% of total project costs rather than the 56.02% previously estimated. Third, we are now seeking TNC Division-level approval to apply for funding from the County of Hawai'i Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resource Preservation Fund, applications for which are considered by the Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission ("PONC"). TNC Division-level approval is needed because PONC funding requires the County of Hawai'i hold a conservation easement.

Mahalo nui loa for your public service and aloha for Hawai'i's precious natural and cultural resources. I look forward to answering any questions you have at the public meeting on April 25, 2025.

Sincerely,

Mele Coleman

Protection Specialist, The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i & Palmyra

Attached: select documents that were previously submitted to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Duke E. Ah Moo Kris Billeter Dr. C. Tana Burkert Anne S. Carter (Chair) Ka'iulani de Silva Daniel J. Dunn Dave Eadie
Jan Elliott Matt Emerson Hon. Judith Epstein Dr. Alan M. Friedlander Benjy Garfinkle Sean A. Hehir Puni Jackson
Brett MacNaughton Janet Montag Alicia Moy John R. Sabas Bradley E. Smith Julie Smolinski Vern Yamanaka

Ihupani Advisory Council: Christopher J. Benjamin Kenton T. Eldridge Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton
Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose Nathan E. Smith

Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle

January 27, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Program
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Requests for Makanau/Pakua (Hīlea) Legacy Land Conservation Program ("LLCP") Application
(TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001, Hīlea Nui and Hīlea Iki Ahupua'a of the Ka'ū Moku, Hawai'i Island)

Aloha Legacy Land Commissioners:

The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra ("TNC") and Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo ("KOOH") hereby jointly request the following with respect to the Makaanau/Pakua LLCP grant application submitted for the fee simple acquisition of real property identified by TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001:

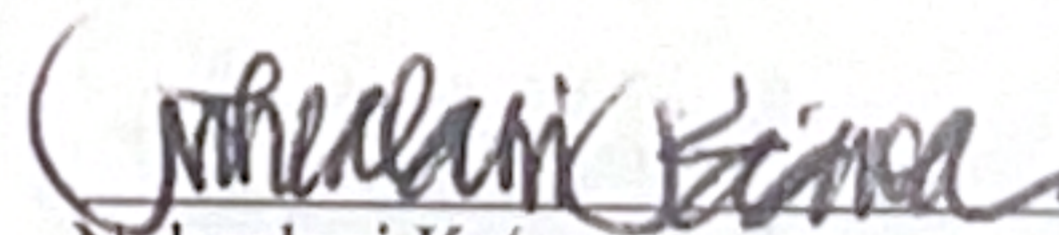
1. TNC requests to transition from partner to applicant and KOOH requests to transition from applicant to partner (see Exhibit A* for support [attached]);
2. TNC and KOOH request that the application be named "Hīlea" rather than "Makaanau / Pakua"; and
3. Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS") § 173(A)-4(e), TNC requests an exemption from the conservation easement requirement set forth by HRS § 173(A)-4(d) and Hawai'i Administrative Rules ("HAR") § 13-140-28 because TNC is a nonprofit conservation organization that is qualified to own and manage the Property, and the proposed project sufficiently addresses "the long-term protection of the land and its resource values." HAR § 13-140-28(c)(2). See Exhibit B** for support (attached).

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of our requests. We look forward to answering any questions you have at the public meeting on January 30, 2025.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,



Ulaha Woodside Lee
Executive Director
The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra



Nohealani Ka'awa
President
Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo

Attachments

*Exhibit A: new Forms 1 & 2, TNC's mission statement, and TNC's IRS non-profit determination letter
**Exhibit B: TNC's Land Trust Accreditation Certificate and TNC's Acres Protected Report (June 30, 2024). TNC has held conservation easements ("CEs") in Hawai'i since 1982, and today holds nine CEs totaling 27,736.09 acres.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Duke E. Ah Moo Kris Billeter Dr. C. Tana Burkert Anne S. Carter (Chair) Ka'iulani de Silva Daniel J. Dunn Dave Eadie
Jan Elliott Matt Emerson Hon. Judith Epstein Dr. Alan M. Friedlander Benjy Garfinkle Sean A. Hehir Puni Jackson
Brett MacNaughton Janet Montag Alicia Moy John R. Sabas Bradley E. Smith Julie Smolinski Vern Yamanaka

Ihupani Advisory Council: Christopher J. Benjamin Kenton T. Eldridge Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton
Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose Nathan E. Smith

Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle

In recognition of meeting national quality standards for
protecting important natural places and working lands forever

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission

awards renewal of accreditation to

The Nature Conservancy



Accreditation Term
through - March 5, 2029

Catherine Rawson, Chair

Excellence - Trust - Permanence

FISCAL YEAR PROTECTION ACTIVITIES						
	U.S. Acres	International Acres*	Total	# of U.S. Transactions	# of International Transactions	Total
Conservation Easements Acquired by TNC & Related Entities	21,358	14,950	36,308	39	1	40
Fee Title Acquired by TNC & Related Entities	65,281		65,281	102		102
Other Protection (Agreements, Leases, etc.) by TNC & Related Entities	79160.96		79,161	6		6
Conservation Easements TNC Assists	54,559		54,559	18		18
Fee Title TNC Assists	18,314	983,628	1,001,942	38	5	43
Other Protection TNC Assists (e.g., Agreements, Leases, etc.)	237.25		237	2		2
TOTAL ACRES PROTECTED IN THE FISCAL YEAR	238,910	998,578	1,237,488	205	6	211
TNC Conservation Easements Assigned Out	1,403		1,403	13		13
TNC Fee Transferred Out with Protection (transfer to govt. agency, retained easement, etc.)	44,946		44,946	59		59
Acres Removed From Protection**	12,970		12,970	16		16
TOTAL CURRENT PROTECTION						
	U.S. Acres	International Acres*	Total	# of U.S. Interests	# of International Interests	Total
Easements Held by TNC & Related Entities that Protect Acres	3,565,572	151,157	3,716,729	2,762	13	2,775
Easements Transferred & Assigned Out (with Protection)	1,117,252	7,840	1,125,092	989	1	990
Easements (that Protect Acres) Acquired via TNC Assists	2,996,231	25,550	3,021,781	806	2	808
Acres Protected by Conservation Easements	7,679,055	184,547	7,863,602	4,557	16	4,573
Fee Title Owned by TNC & Related Entities that Protects Acres	2,416,437	381,640	2,798,077	7,435	12	7,447
Fee Title Acquired by TNC but Transferred Out (with Protection)	4,446,766	313,683	4,760,448	8,540	68	8,608
Fee (that Protects Acres) Acquired via TNC Assists	4,959,932	80,544,187	85,504,119	8,133	253	8,386
Acres Protected by Fee Title	11,823,135	81,239,509	93,062,644	24,108	333	24,441
Acres Protected by Deed Restrictions held by TNC or partners	77,721	1,643	79,363	381	2	383
Acres Protected by Other Activities (Agreements, Leases, etc.)	3,931,283	8,644,454	12,575,737	466	10	476
TOTAL ACRES PROTECTED	23,511,194	90,070,153	113,581,347	29,512	361	29,873
TOTAL TNC CURRENT HOLDINGS						
	U.S. Acres	International Acres*	Total	# of U.S. Interests	# of International Interests	Total
Conservation Easements Total Held by TNC & Related Entities	3,705,439	161,280	3,866,719	2,924	15	2,939
Fee Title Total Owned by TNC & Related Entities	2,416,441	381,640	2,798,081	7,439	12	7,451
<p>Calendar/Fiscal Year Protection Activities section captures protection activities (fee title, conservation easements, management agreements, etc.) that closed in the period of this report & protects previously unprotected land. The Total Current Protection section includes Interests marked in LRM as Protected but does not include <i>all</i> TNC interests such as those that overlap or do not confer protection. Instead, this report tries to include only Tracts with newly protected acres. This helps prevent double counting and provides a clearer picture of the actual total acres protected. For Example - Some properties have multiple protection activities (e.g., TNC owns a conservation easement and fee title). The interests can be acquired at the same time or at different times. To avoid double counting acreage with multiple Interests, only the Interest that confers protection is included in the Transactions and Interests counts; other interest(s) are excluded.</p> <p>Total TNC Current Holdings includes ALL TNC-held easement and fee title Interests, whether they are overlapping and/or provide protection or not.</p>						
*TNC works in 70 countries and territories. Some international work may not be reflected.			**Acres Removed from Protection includes tracts transferred subject to no conservation protection. In a 12,896-acre transaction, TNC exchanged undivided percent interest in non-conservation land for increased majority percent ownership along the St. John River.			
These figures are produced by the Legal Data Resource Center from the Land Resource Manager (LRM) database on a fiscal and calendar year basis.						

Current Acres Protected by Country or US State - FY24

State/US Nation	Conservation Easements Acquired by TNC & Related Entities	TNC Cons Easements Transferred & Assigned Out	TNC Assists - Conservation Easements	TNC Deed Restrictions	Fee Title Acquired by TNC & Related Entities	TNC Fee Transferred Out with Protection	TNC Assists - Fee Title	Other Protection by TNC & Related Entities
Alabama	1,588.24	768.89	91.03		19,187.56	68,947.32	83,439.11	2,670.00
Alaska	52.50	1,162.91	106.00	562.00	3,087.34	46,438.34	1,685.00	62,177.36
Argentina			24,601.80		11,004.26		237.96	
Arizona	52,091.83	20,378.27	17,851.93		19,427.94	44,074.79	764,186.50	110,059.00
Arkansas	12,888.75	20,117.15			21,682.30	92,211.30	71,335.17	250.50
Australia							4,448,903.85	
Bahamas							112,682.00	
Belize					235,914.37		655,762.58	
Bolivia							5,556,925.55	
Brazil				1,227.64			3,148,685.23	
California	344,446.53	43,660.27	51,296.96	6,101.24	191,339.68	335,960.47	325,552.10	205,947.67
Canada		7,840.00		415.00		10,109.05	18,754,203.86	5,725,930.69
Cayman Islands						289.71		
Chile	15,006.33				123,954.29	23,325.96	24,517.00	
Colombia							3,548,115.65	
Colorado	531,495.47	91,727.41	172,684.77		73,895.74	174,048.76	43,725.00	84,105.41
Connecticut	17,771.13	1,159.65	949.24	73.69	13,156.16	9,217.08	4,442.96	535.35
Costa Rica			948.33			48,207.87	306,822.63	2,834,692.36
Delaware	1,507.97	156.80	4,780.35		5,032.26	2,822.42	14,750.25	
Dominica						948.49	1,301.00	
Dominican Republic							813,038.00	
Ecuador					209.50	2,081.00	4,097,836.00	
Florida	36,427.80	9,665.59	92,460.57	8.67	38,666.99	328,390.28	795,161.65	445.50
Georgia	57,205.51	23,612.69	3,781.82	62.70	26,447.73	211,406.20	57,934.73	5,563.30
Guatemala	86,324.36				9.11		4,664,555.00	
Hawaii	27,736.09	35.57		3,919.86	18,512.50	142,573.83	6,289.09	213.82

Walter Andrade/MJ Ranch
PO Box 74
Nā'ālehu, HI 96772

January 6, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Program
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Strong support for protection of the Hīlea Property, comprised of approximately 1,916 acres, TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001, Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island (Makanau/Pakua (Hīlea) Legacy Lands Application)

Aloha Legacy Land Commissioners:

As a rancher who currently leases a portion of the above TMK for cattle pasture, I would like to express my strong support for the Makanau/Pakua Legacy Land application submitted by Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo ("KOOH") and The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra ("TNC") for the fee simple acquisition of real property identified by TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001 and located in the Hīlea Nui Ahupua'a and Hīlea Iki Ahupua'a of the Ka'ū moku on Hawai'i Island (the "Hīlea Property").

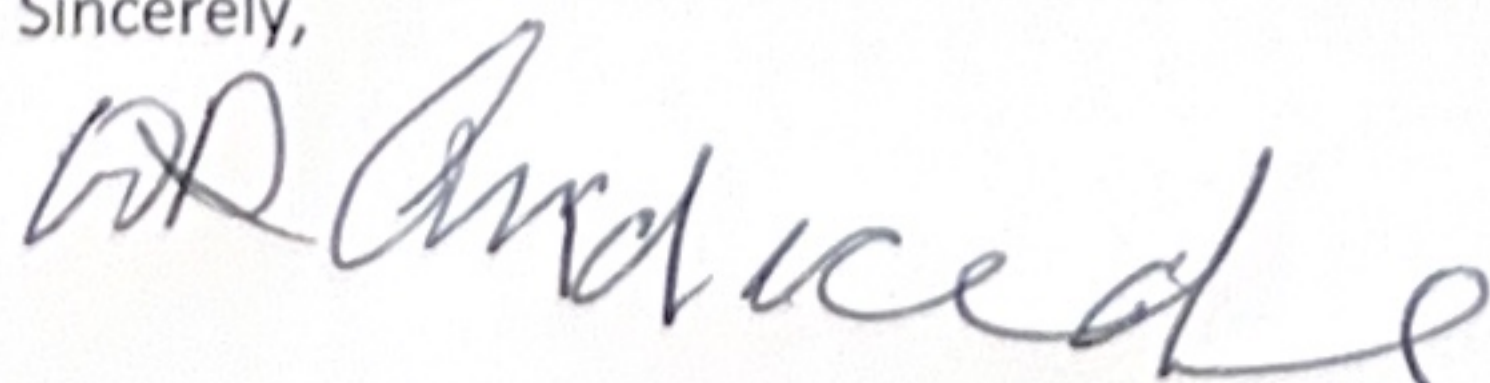
Our family has been ranching in Ka'ū for many decades. My wife, children, and grandchildren are native Hawaiian and our family has lived in Ka'ū for many generations. We believe the Hīlea Property should be protected in perpetuity to preserve its natural resources. This property is valuable for its native forests, its agricultural productivity, and its cultural significance. We have been leasing portions of this property from TNC for many years and have a good relationship with the organization.

The Hīlea Property consists of 1,916 acres of ecologically and culturally important land that is cherished by the local community and threatened by development. The Pakua pu'u on the property contains approximately 340 acres of high-quality native 'ōhia and uluhe fern forest that is habitat for several listed species (e.g., native honeycreepers and Hawaiian Hoary bat) and home to numerous native plants. The forest is well-preserved due to the steep terrain of Pakua that keeps out the cattle that graze on the surrounding high-quality agricultural lands. The Hīlea Property is adjacent to other protected lands – the Kaiholena management unit of the TNC Ka'ū Preserve and the State of Hawai'i Ka'ū Forest Reserve. Kohaikalani Heiau, which is located on the southern edge of the plateau on the summit of Makanau, has great significance in Hawaiian history and is extremely important to the people of Ka'ū.

TNC is the right land trust to own and steward the Hīlea Property because it has an excellent reputation as a land steward within the Ka'ū community, has the skills and resources necessary to mālama the Hīlea Property as an addition to its Ka'ū Preserve, and would develop a management plan for the property in coordination with lineal descendents, community members, and community groups such as KOOH.

In conclusion, our ranch strongly supports the Legacy Land application submitted by KOOH and TNC for protection of the Hīlea Property in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter Andrade", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the word "Sincerely," and extends across the width of the page.



Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

*Post Office Box 1801, Kealahou, Hawaii, HI 96750 &
Post Office Box 790637, Paia, Maui, HI 96779*

Celebrating 28+ years of protecting Hawaii's native wildlife through
research, education and conservation.

6 January 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Program
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Re: Strong support for protection of the Hīlea Property, comprised of approximately 1,916 acres, TMK:
(3) 9-5-018-001, Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island (Makanau/Pakua (Hīlea) Legacy Lands Application)**

Aloha, Legacy Land Commissioners:

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund (HWF) is pleased to provide strong support for the Makanau/Pakua Legacy Land application submitted by Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo ("KOOH") and The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra ("TNC") for the fee simple acquisition of real property identified by TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001 and located in the Hīlea Nui Ahupua'a and Hīlea Iki Ahupua'a of the Ka'ū moku on Hawai'i Island (the "Hīlea Property").

HWF believes the Hīlea Property should be protected in perpetuity. The Hīlea Property consists of 1,916 acres of ecologically and culturally important land that is cherished by the local community and threatened by development. The Pakua pu'u on the property contains approximately 340 acres of high-quality native 'ōhia and uluhe fern forest that is habitat for several listed species (e.g., native honeycreepers and Hawaiian Hoary bat) and home to numerous native plants. The forest is well-preserved due to the steep terrain of Pakua that keeps out the cattle that graze on the surrounding high-quality agricultural lands. The Hīlea Property is adjacent to other protected lands – the Kaiholena management unit of the TNC Ka'ū Preserve and the State of Hawai'i Ka'ū Forest Reserve. Kohaikalani Heiau, which is located on the southern edge of the plateau on the summit of Makanau, has great significance in Hawaiian history and is extremely important to the people of Ka'ū.

HWF believes TNC is the right land trust to own and steward the Hīlea Property because it has an excellent reputation as a land steward within the Ka'ū community, has the skills and resources necessary to mālama the Hīlea Property as an addition to its Ka'ū Preserve, and would develop a management plan for the property in coordination with lineal descendents, community members, and community groups such as KOOH.

Founded in 1996, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund is a nonprofit organization with a mission to conserve Hawai'i's native wildlife through research and education. We engage and inspire communities through outreach, education, conservation and habitat restoration activities, conducting environmental research, supporting community-driven management efforts, and initiating advocacy campaigns. We have been working to protect native wildlife and restore coastal / nearshore ecosystems across the Hawaiian Archipelago for the past 28 years with community and partner support. HWF has a long history of partnership and working together with both KOOH and TNC and wholeheartedly supports this proposal. Relevant to this application, HWF staff and volunteers have been working to restore and protect coastal habitat along the Ka'ū coastline since 2001, inclusive of properties just "downstream" from Hīlea, including Honu'apo, Kāwā, and Punalu'u, and sees the myriad benefits that this land acquisition would present to native flora and fauna, watersheds, coastal ecosystems, and the Ka'ū community members that surround it.

In conclusion, **HWF strongly supports the Legacy Land application submitted by KOOH and TNC for protection of the Hīlea Property in perpetuity.** Thank you for considering this support letter. Should you have any questions, please contact me at megan@wildhawaii.org.

Sincerely,



Megan Lamson Leatherman, M. Sc.

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, President and Hawai'i Program Director

megan@wildhawaii.org | (c) 808-217-5777 | (w) 808-769-7629 (HWF Marine Debris Hotline)



Bill Gilmartin, HWF Co-founder and Director of Research, Emeritus bill.HWF@gmail.com



Hannah Bernard, HWF Co-founder and Executive Director hannah@wildhawaii.org



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail
74-4786 Kanalani Street, #14
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
Tel. (808) 217-0307

IN REPLY REFER TO:

January 6, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Program
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Strong support for protection of the Hīlea Property, comprised of approximately 1,916 acres, TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001, Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island (Makanau/Pakua (Hīlea) Legacy Lands Application)

Aloha e Legacy Land Commissioners:

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail (NHT), National Park Service, conveys our strong support for the Makanau/Pakua Legacy Land application submitted by Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo ("KOOH") and The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra ("TNCH") for the fee simple acquisition of real property identified by TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001 and located in the Hīlea Nui Ahupua'a and Hīlea Iki Ahupua'a of the Ka'ū moku on Hawai'i Island (the "Hīlea Property").

We believe the Hīlea Property should be protected in perpetuity. The Hīlea Property consists of 1,916 acres of ecologically and culturally important land that is cherished by the local community and threatened by development. The Pakua pu'u on the property contains approximately 340 acres of high-quality native 'ōhia and uluhe fern forest that is habitat for several listed species (e.g., native honeycreepers and Hawaiian Hoary bat) and home to numerous native plants. Kohaikalani Heiau, which is located on the southern edge of the plateau on the summit of Makanau, has great significance in Hawaiian history and is extremely important to the people of Ka'ū.

We are working closely with TNCH on community-based conservation projects throughout the Ala Kahakai NHT's corridor and confident that TNCH is the right land trust to own and steward the Hīlea Property. THCH has an excellent reputation as a land steward within the Ka'ū community and would develop a management plan for the property in coordination with descendants, community members, and community groups such as KOOH.

In conclusion, the Ala Kahakai NHT strongly supports the subject Legacy Land application. Thank you for this opportunity to support this initiative.

ARIC ARAKAKI Digitally signed by ARIC
ARAKAKI
Date: 2025.01.06 16:31:17 -10'00'

Superintendent
Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

Kuahiwi Contractors, Inc.
Dba Kuahiwi Ranch
PO Box 294
Nā'ālehu, HI 96772

January 7, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Program
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Strong support for protection of the Hīlea Property, comprised of approximately 1,916 acres, TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001, Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island (Makanau/Pakua (Hīlea) Legacy Lands Application)

Aloha Legacy Land Commissioners:

Kuahiwi Ranch currently leases a portion of the above TMK for cattle pasture to produce locally grown grass-fed beef.

We would like to express our strong support for the Makanau/Pakua Legacy Land application submitted by Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo ("KOOH") and The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra ("TNC") for the fee simple acquisition of real property identified by TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001 and located in the Hīlea Nui Ahupua'a and Hīlea Iki Ahupua'a of the Ka'ū moku on Hawai'i Island (the "Hīlea Property").

We believe the Hīlea Property should be protected in perpetuity to preserve its natural resources. This property is valuable for its native forests, its agricultural productivity, and its cultural significance. The Hīlea Property consists of 1,916 acres of ecologically and culturally important land that is cherished by the local community and threatened by development. The Pakua pu'u on the property contains approximately 340 acres of high-quality native 'ōhia and uluhe fern forest that is habitat for several listed species (e.g., native honeycreepers and Hawaiian Hoary bat) and home to numerous native plants. The forest is well-preserved due to the steep terrain of Pakua that keeps out the cattle that graze on the surrounding high-quality agricultural lands. The Hīlea Property is adjacent to other protected lands – the Kaiholena management unit of the TNC Ka'ū Preserve and the State of Hawai'i Ka'ū Forest Reserve. Kohaikalani Heiau, which is located on the southern edge of the plateau on the summit of Makanau, has great significance in Hawaiian history and is extremely important to the people of Ka'ū.

TNC is the right land trust to own and steward the Hīlea Property because it has an excellent reputation as a land steward within the Ka'ū community, has the skills and resources necessary to mālama the Hīlea Property as an addition to its Ka'ū Preserve, and would develop a management plan for the property in coordination with lineal descendents, community members, and community groups such as KOOH.

In conclusion, our ranch strongly supports the Legacy Land application submitted by KOOH and TNC for protection of the Hīlea Property in perpetuity.

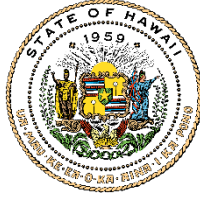
Sincerely,



Michelle Galimba, VP

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

Division of Forestry and Wildlife
19 East Kawili Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

January 9, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Program
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Support for protection of the Hīlea Property, comprised of approximately 1,916 acres, TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001, Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island (Makanau/Pakua (Hīlea) Legacy Lands Application)

Aloha Legacy Land Commissioners:

Hawaii District Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is pleased to provide support for the Makanau/Pakua Legacy Land application submitted by Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo ("KOOH") and The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra ("TNC") for the fee simple acquisition of real property identified by TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001 and located in the Hīlea Nui Ahupua'a and Hīlea Iki Ahupua'a of the Ka'ū moku on Hawai'i Island (the "Hīlea Property").

Hawaii District DOFAW believes the Hīlea Property should be managed in accordance with the surrounding conservation and agricultural lands. The Hīlea Property consists of 1,916 acres of ecologically and agriculturally important land that is cherished by the local community. The Pakua pu'u on the property contains approximately 340 acres of high-quality native 'ōhia and uluhe fern forest that is habitat for several listed species (e.g., native honeycreepers and Hawaiian Hoary bat) and home to numerous native plants. The forest is well-preserved due to the steep terrain of Pakua that keeps out the cattle that graze on the surrounding high-quality agricultural lands. The Hīlea Property is adjacent to other protected lands – the Kaiholena management unit of the TNC Ka'ū Preserve and the State of Hawai'i Ka'ū Forest Reserve.

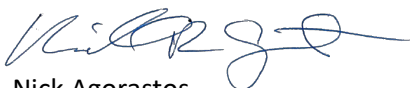
Hawaii District DOFAW believes TNC is a suitable land trust to own and steward the Hīlea Property because it has an excellent reputation as a land steward within the Ka'ū community, has the skills and resources necessary to manage the Hīlea Property as an addition to its Ka'ū Preserve, and would develop a management plan for the property.

Hawaii district DOFAW hopes that future management of the property includes managed access to Ka'u Forest Reserve, opportunities for silviculture, watershed management and that the native forest dominated portions of Pakua are fenced, and invasive plant and feral ungulate species are removed and managed to prevent further degradation. It is also hoped that the agricultural portions are properly are managed to include

silviculture and agro forestry opportunities. Additional benefits that could be realized by the Hawaii island and Ka`u communities are the important livestock operations that support the local agricultural industry, the reduced wild fire potential thru managed grazing, and support of the open space, rural landscape and lifestyle of Ka`u.

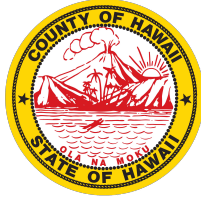
In conclusion, Hawaii District DOFAW supports the Legacy Land application submitted by KOOH and TNC for acquisition and management of the Hilea Property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Agorastos", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nick Agorastos
DLNR-DOFAW
NARS Manager
19 E. Kawili st
Hilo, Hi 96720

Michelle M. Galimba
Council District 6
Portion N. S. Kona/Ka'ū/Volcano



Email: Michelle.Galimba@hawaiicounty.gov
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

Legacy Land Conservation Program
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Strong support for protection of the Hīlea Property, comprised of approximately 1,916 acres, TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001, Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island (Makanau/Pakua (Hīlea) Legacy Lands Application)

Aloha Legacy Land Commissioners:

I would like to express my strong support for the Makanau/Pakua Legacy Land application submitted by Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo ("KOOH") and The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra ("TNC") for the fee simple acquisition of real property identified by TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001 and located in the Hīlea Nui Ahupua'a and Hīlea Iki Ahupua'a of the Ka'ū moku on Hawai'i Island (the "Hīlea Property").

The Ka'ū community has always valued its *wahi pana* virtually above all else. The Hīlea Property is one such *wahi pana*. However, its acquisition and protection in perpetuity is beneficial, not just to Ka'ū, but to the entire State, in that this is a unique legacy landscape that can be experienced by residents and visitors alike.

This property is valuable for its native forests, its agricultural productivity, and its cultural significance. The Hīlea Property consists of 1,916 acres of ecologically and culturally important land that is cherished by the local community and threatened by development. The Pakua pu'u on the property contains approximately 340 acres of high-quality native 'ōhia and uluhe fern forest that is habitat for several listed species (e.g., native honeycreepers and Hawaiian Hoary bat) and home to numerous native plants. Kohaikalani Heiau, which is located on the southern edge of the plateau on the summit of Makanau, has great significance in Hawaiian history and is extremely important to the people of Ka'ū. TNC is the right land trust to own and steward the Hīlea Property because it has an excellent reputation as a land steward within the Ka'ū community,

In conclusion, the Legacy Land application submitted by KOOH and TNC for protection of the Hīlea Property aligns with and supports the values and priorities of the community and I urge you to consider this property a high property for State funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Galimba", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

January 9, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Program
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813



Re: Strong support for protection of the Hīlea Property, comprised of approximately 1,916 acres, TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001, Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island (Makanau/Pakua (Hīlea) Legacy Lands Application)

Aloha, Legacy Land Commissioners:

'Iewe Hānau O Ka 'Āina is pleased to provide strong support for the Makanau/Pakua Legacy Land application submitted by Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo ("KOOH") and The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra ("TNC") for the fee simple acquisition of real property identified by TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001 and located in the Hīlea Nui Ahupua'a and Hīlea Iki Ahupua'a of the Ka'ū moku on Hawai'i Island (the "Hīlea Property").

'Iewe Hānau O Ka 'Āina believes the Hīlea Property should be protected in perpetuity. The Hīlea Property consists of 1,916 acres of ecologically and culturally important land that is cherished by the local community and threatened by development. The Pakua pu'u on the property contains approximately 340 acres of high-quality native 'ōhia and uluhe fern forest that is habitat for several listed species (e.g., native honeycreepers and Hawaiian Hoary bat) and home to numerous native plants. The forest is well-preserved due to the steep terrain of Pakua that keeps out the cattle that graze on the surrounding high-quality agricultural lands. The Hīlea Property is adjacent to other protected lands – the Kaiholena management unit of the TNC Ka'ū Preserve and the State of Hawai'i Ka'ū Forest Reserve. Kohaikalani Heiau, which is located on the southern edge of the plateau on the summit of Makanau, has great significance in Hawaiian history and is extremely important to the people of Ka'ū.

'Iewe Hānau O Ka 'Āina believes TNC is the right land trust to own and steward the Hīlea Property because it has an excellent reputation as a land steward within the Ka'ū community, has the skills and resources necessary to mālama the Hīlea Property as an addition to its Ka'ū Preserve, and would develop a management plan for the property in coordination with lineal descendents, community members, and community groups such as KOOH.

'Iewe Hānau O Ka 'Āina is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to protect the cultural practices, natural resources, and beauty of Punalu'u and other wahi pana of Ka'ū; to minimize the impact caused by overuse of the natural resources of Ka'ū; and to perpetuate traditional and customary practices of Ka'ū. The board represents a range of backgrounds and experiences that work together in the spirit of aloha 'āina and mālama 'āina to achieve the mission of 'Iewe Hānau o ka 'Āina. With expertise in cultural preservation, natural resource conservation, kuleana native tenant rights, 'āina-based education, kānaka maoli worldview, and Ka'ū history and mo'olelo, the board of directors manage the administration and operations of the non-profit organization, with the support and guidance of those who hold membership.

In conclusion, 'Iewe Hānau O Ka 'Āina strongly supports the Legacy Land application submitted by KOOH and TNC for protection of the Hīlea Property in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nohealani Ka'awa". The signature is written in a cursive, fluid style with some loops and flourishes.

Nohealani Ka'awa
President- 'Iewe Hānau o ka 'Āina

RJ Ranch
Richard and Tyler Johansen
PO Box 229
Nā'ālehu, HI 96772

January 13, 2025

Legacy Land Conservation Program
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Strong support for protection of the Hīlea Property, comprised of approximately 1,916 acres, TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001, Ka'ū, Hawai'i Island (Makanau/Pakua (Hīlea) Legacy Lands Application)

Aloha Legacy Land Commissioners:

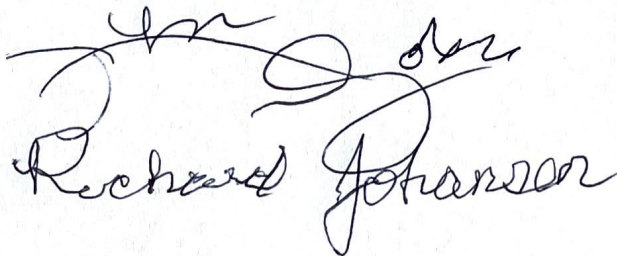
As a rancher who currently leases a portion of the above TMK for cattle pasture, I would like to express my strong support for the Makanau/Pakua Legacy Land application submitted by Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo ("KOOH") and The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra ("TNC") for the fee simple acquisition of real property identified by TMK: (3) 9-5-018-001 and located in the Hīlea Nui Ahupua'a and Hīlea Iki Ahupua'a of the Ka'ū moku on Hawai'i Island (the "Hīlea Property").

Our family has been ranching in Ka'ū for many decades. We believe the Hīlea Property should be protected in perpetuity to preserve its natural resources. This property is valuable for its native forests, its agricultural productivity, and its cultural significance. We have been leasing portions of this property from TNC for many years and have a good relationship with the organization.

TNC is the right land trust to own and steward the Hīlea Property because it has an excellent reputation as a land steward within the Ka'ū community, has the skills and resources necessary to mālama the Hīlea Property as an addition to its Ka'ū Preserve, and would develop a management plan for the property in coordination with lineal descendants, community members, and community groups such as KOOH.

In conclusion, our ranch strongly supports the Legacy Land application submitted by KOOH and TNC for protection of the Hīlea Property in perpetuity.

Sincerely,



Richard Johansen