

From: [Karter Smith](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 9:04:39 PM

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

My name is Karter James Lihau Smith, and I am writing in strong support of the Kaneohe Cultural Foundation's request for the renewal of our revocable permit at He'eia Kea Pier.

For over 50 years, our organization has served as a cultural cornerstone in the Kāne'ohe community. Through perpetuation of traditional Hawaiian practices such as outrigger canoe paddling, ocean safety, and community engagement, the Kāne'ohe Canoe Club and the Kāne'ohe Cultural Foundation have empowered generations of youth and adults to remain connected to the land, ocean, and culture of our home.

Their presence at He'eia Kea Pier is not only practical—it is deeply symbolic. It provides a place where education, cultural preservation, and community building intersect. From keiki learning their first paddle strokes to kupuna sharing stories of the past, this is a living cultural space that enriches Kāne'ohe and the broader Windward side.

We respectfully urge the BLNR to vote in favor of renewing the revocable permit this year, and to consider a long-term vision that ensures these vital programs continue for many years to come. Their work aligns with the mission of stewarding public lands for the benefit of Hawai'i's people and perpetuating Native Hawaiian cultural practices.

Mahalo for your time, dedication, and consideration of this important matter.

With deep respect,

Karter James Lihau Smith