



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAI'I  
BOX 63002  
KANEHOHE BAY HAWAI'I 96863-3002

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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S-5

May 6, 2026

The Honorable Ryan Kanaka'ole and Members of the Board,  
State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Board,

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE ACQUISITION OF MAUNAWILI  
VALLEY FOR CONSERVATION

Acquisition of Maunawili Valley by the State of Hawai'i is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect vital cultural and natural resources important to the community and to the operational readiness of military forces in the Pacific.

The Department of War's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program, in collaboration with many diverse partners, has identified the conservation of Maunawili Valley as a priority. The REPI Program is designed to protect our nation's military readiness by preventing incompatible development near our installations that can constrain our ability to train and operate. The proposed acquisition is possible through a collaborative effort with funding from the REPI Program, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH), U.S. Army Garrison- Hawai'i, the U.S. Forest Service, and state and county sources, and will create a vital buffer precluding encroachment that could otherwise impact our training and readiness in the future.

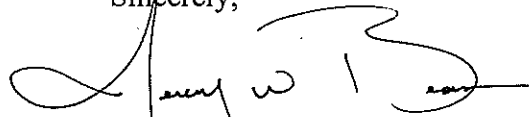
The protection of Maunawili Valley also aligns with the Marines deep commitment to environmental stewardship. MCBH has a proud history of conservation and we remain motivated to protect and enhance the natural resources of Hawai'i. Protecting of this critical watershed for the Kailua ahupua'a provides fresh water to the Kawainui Marsh and is crucial to long-term water resiliency. Protecting Maunawili also provides a link to Hawai'i's past with culturally significant ancient and historic sites, including heiau, petroglyphs, and traditional lo'i. Preserving Maunawili will protect these sacred sites and provide an opportunity for the revitalization of traditional Hawaiian agricultural practices.

The collaboration between the Department of War, the U.S. Forest Service, the State of Hawai'i, the City and County of Honolulu, and dedicated community organizations is a model for achieving land conservation and preservation goals. The Trust for Public Land and community groups comprising Hui Maunawili-Kawainui have been instrumental in bringing this opportunity to fruition, and we are proud to stand with them in this effort.

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The transfer of Maunawili Valley to the State of Hawai'i is a profound investment in the future of O'ahu and our environment, culture, and national security. I urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to approve this historic acquisition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. W. Beaven". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J. W. BEAVEN  
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer  
Marine Corps Base Hawai'i