



March 27, 2018

To: Maui County Council
Budget & Finance Committee

Re: Ka'ehu

Aloha,

I am the Program Manager of Ka'ehu and testifying in support of Ka'ehu and the work we are doing to help restore and maintain the 64-acre parcel at Ka'ehu Bay. Since January 2017, the nonprofit organization has helped to clean up the area, decrease criminal and drug activity, remove metals and rubbish from areas throughout the parcel that was being used as a dumping ground, and have increased community and business participation in restoring and maintaining the shoreline and 'āina.

We are currently partnering with community organizations and businesses including Kauahea Inc. And President Hōkūlani Holt, Hale Ho'olana and owner Ki'i and Pohaku Kaho'ohanohano, MAA (Makahiki Athletic Association) and Educator Ikaika Fruean, and PIKO (Planning Innovative Communities & Opportunities and President Lily Donge from Rocky Mountain Institute, including some kuleana families. Additional partners include Maui Police Department POI (Positive Outcomes Intervention) youth program, Hawaii Wildlife Fund and Wailuku CMMA (Community Managed Makai Area). Programs that regularly volunteer include Kaunoa Seniors, Baldwin High Hawaiian Club, Sharkastics, and community groups and individuals.

Ka'ehu is coordinating planning workshops to help us develop our long-term planning goals and objectives. We have secured in-kind services from experts in the field of planning, architecture, civil engineering, water hydrology, renewable energy, and financial accountability and fundraising.

From March to May 2017, I was meeting with Maio kuleana family members in hopes of establishing a working partnership to allow them to care for their ancestral lands located next to the Waiehu stream. They decided not to partner and have been harassing and attacking staff and board members at County Council, on facebook, at a planning workshop. They have accused us of building a hotel and have spread this false information throughout the community. Recently on Dec 14, 2017, 4 kuleana family members, Lala (Laura) Johnson, Kaniloa Kanamu, Henry Maio, and his wife, went to Pakele Place, located on the 64-acre parcel while Maui County DPW crew and Malama Maui Nui was helping Ka'ehu staff clean a homeless encampment. After lunch, Kanamu and Johnson began harassing the staff, crew and volunteers at the worksite while Johnson videotaped the entire incident. The harassment was so extreme, a staff member of Malama Maui Nui was brought to tears and the two women on their crew were given permission to leave work for the day. The Office of Economic Development is currently seeking a Restraining Order against Kanamu, Johnson and Maio to stop any further harassment, verbal abuse, and attacks of Ka'ehu staff and volunteers.

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Submitted by Rob Parsons (BF-137)

The Ka'ehu board, staff, and partners continue to work hard to restore and maintain the area. A park of this size normally would require an annual budget of \$350,000 and the County has allotted \$75,000. This makes it very difficult to properly care for the parcel. We are doing our best to raise monies, awareness, and develop a long-term plan for Ka'ehu Bay.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Ku'uleinani Maunupau
Program Manager
KA'EHU