

ADEPT Committee

From: Kate Griffiths
Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 11:43 AM
To: ADEPT Committee
Subject: PATH letter
Attachments: 2023.01.03 - PATH Letter to Maui Parks (1).pdf

Aloha,

CM Johnson requests that the attached letter be uploaded to Granicus for today's ADEPT committee meeting.

Mahalo,
Kate

Kate Griffiths

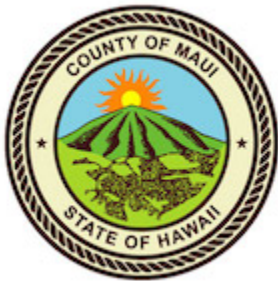
Chief of Staff & Senior Policy Analyst

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January 3, 2023

VIA U.S. MAIL and
EMAIL (parks.dept@mauicounty.gov)

Maui County
Department of Parks and Recreation
700 Halia Nakoia St., Unit 2
Wailuku, HI 96793

Re: Recreational Opportunities on County Owned "Cane Roads"

Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation,

This law firm represents Public Access Trails Hawai'i ("PATH"), a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to protecting and increasing public access to publicly owned trails and roads while respecting the private property rights of land owners. PATH actively researches, advocates for, and disseminates information on public access to publicly owned roads and trails on Maui for many years.

PATH's preliminary research indicates that certain roads traversing or bordering parcels of land owned or formerly owned by Alexander & Baldwin (A&B) are, in fact, owned by Maui County but have been abandoned or neglected, often resulting in these county-owned roads being used exclusively by A&B and/or its successors, to the exclusion of the general public. Specifically, the roads identified by PATH that appear to be valuable, but neglected, assets of Maui County consist of all or a portion of the following roads: (i) Kihei-Makawao Road, (ii) Waiko Road, (iii) Paia Mill Road, (iv) Sprecklesville Road, (v) Sunnyside Road, and (vi) Kala Road, as further indicated on the map attached hereto as Exhibit "A," hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Cane Roads."

These Cane Roads are not currently, and for many years have not been, in use for vehicular traffic. Furthermore, these Cane Roads are located in or near areas that could greatly benefit from increased recreational opportunities such as Sprecklesville, Paia, and Kihei. Cumulatively, these Cane Roads total over 19.9 miles of readily accessible roadways that can be easily opened in their existing condition (or with minimal improvement) to allow public access to these recreational resources, as the Cane Roads are already graded, laid out, and well delineated. Given the location, existing county ownership of these Cane Roads, the ever-increasing demand for outdoor recreational

activities, and the well-known health benefits of increasing access to such activities, PATH has identified these Cane Roads as valuable potential recreational resources that PATH believes can and should be opened to the public for pedestrian and other non-vehicular activities under the control of the Maui County Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR").

In the spirit of Maui County Charter § 13-14, PATH desires to cooperate and work collaboratively with the DPR to explore options for increasing public access to and recreational opportunities upon these Cane Roads. **To that end, PATH requests that DPR (1) explain its position, if any, regarding repurposing County owned roads that are no longer in use and/or abandoned for recreational purposes such as hiking or multi-use trails, (2) directly engage with PATH to determine what, if anything, can be done in the private and public sectors to ensure that these public assets are put to use to benefit the general public, and (3) include PATH in any ongoing or upcoming community involved discussions regarding new and/or increased recreational projects or facilities on the island of Maui.**

PATH welcomes the opportunity to further discuss these matters with DPR and looks forward to beginning a dialogue on the matter. Please feel free to contact me at (808) 371-5090 or via email at mike@northshorelawhawaii.com at your convenience to discuss the above.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

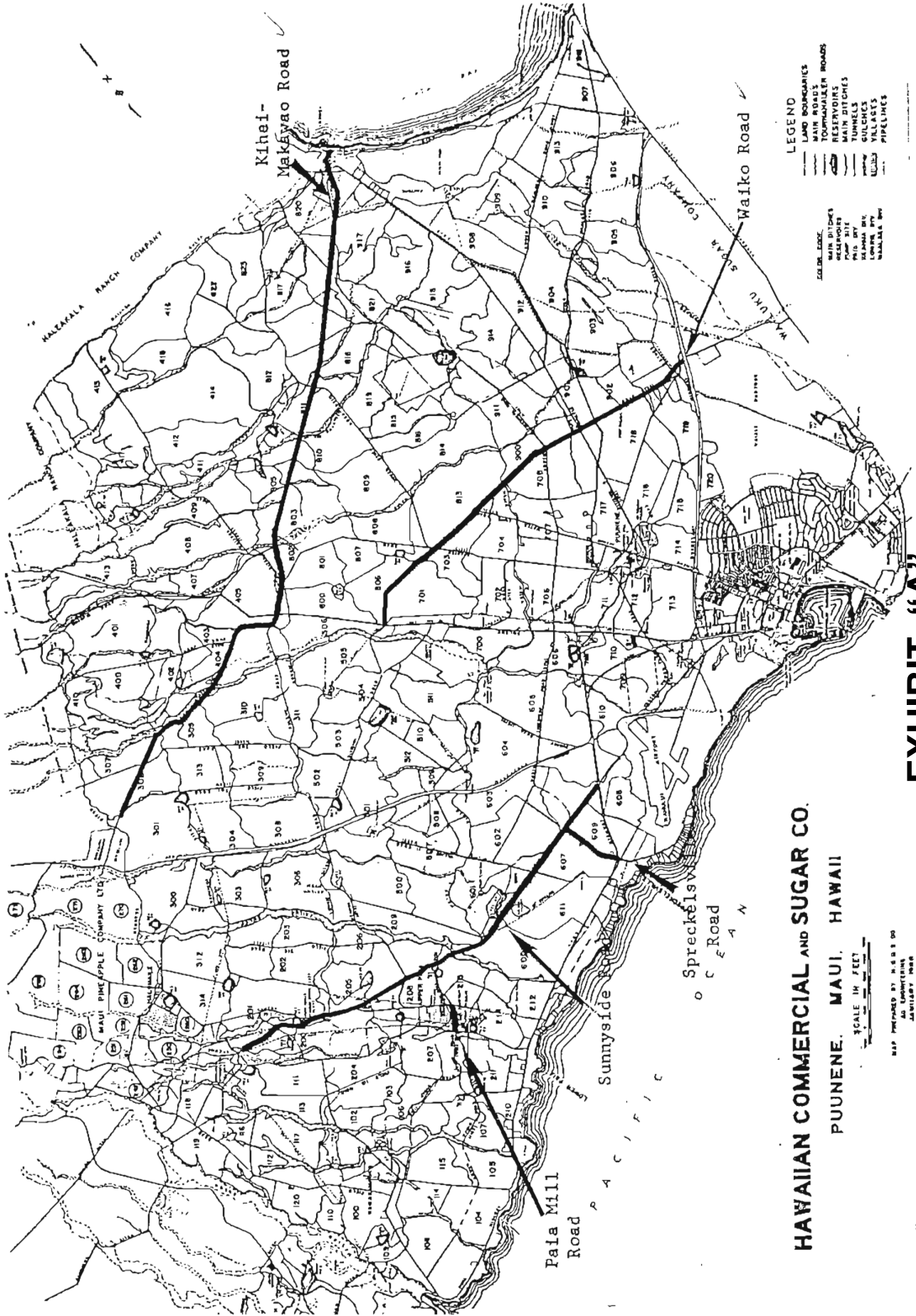
North Shore Law Offices LLLC



Michael C. Biechler, Esq.

Attachments (1)

cc: Client (via email)



LEGEND

- LAND BOUNDARIES
- MAIN ROADS
- TOWN/VILLAGE ROADS
- RESERVOIRS
- CANALS
- DITCHES
- GULCHES
- VALLEYS
- PIPELINES

SCALE: 1" = 100'

MAP PREPARED BY H.S.B. & CO.
 211 COMMERCE STREET
 HONOLULU, HAWAII

HAWAIIAN COMMERCIAL AND SUGAR CO.
 PUUNENE, MAUI, HAWAII

EXHIBIT "A"