

2017
Jennifer Noelani Ahia, L.Ac.

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Date: March 19, 2017

Dear Planning Commission:

I am writing in support of Ho'omana and their educational and cultural programs. I am Kanaka Maoli, raised and educated on the mainland. In my diaspora experience, I longed for a time when I could learn my Hawaiian cultural and spiritual practices. My Kupuna called me home to Hawaii with a series of signs or ho'ailona and I was finally able to move here in 2008 after completing my masters degree in Chinese Medicine. This was not an easy transition. I searched for cultural support and teachings but what I found was the heavy influence of settler colonialism keeping the practices sparse and not as readily available as I would have hoped for. After discovering that I had a familial connection to Jeana and her Kumu, Auntie Mahi PoePoe, I decided to begin studying lomilomi, la'au lapa'au, ho'oponopono, and other traditional practices at Ho'omana Spa. This was a gift beyond measure as it helped me learn the ways of my ancestors as well as contributed to my continued growing into my identity as Kanaka Maoli.

Ho'omana is not just a business. It is an important bridge for both Kanaka Maoli and Malihini to learn and experience first hand the wisdom of the Kupuna of Maui. There are very few places where you can go to learn these things in an authentic and loving way. The fact that this learning center is "on the 'Aina" and not in a business park is fundamental to how the material is taught and understood. The connection to the 'Aina is part of the fundamental concepts of Hawaiian thinking and living. This educational center deserves to be permitted by the county and supported for the important work it does in perpetuating culture. It would be tragic if something or someone were to prevent Ho'omana from continuing its mission.

Mahalo Nui,

Jennifer Noelani Ahia

LU Committee

From: Jeana Naluai <director@lomimassage.com>
Sent: Monday, September 04, 2017 8:57 PM
To: LU Committee
Subject: Letters of support for Ho'omana
Attachments: letters of support.zip; More letters of support.zip

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Jeana Iwalani Naluai
Founder and Director, Ho'omana
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