

EACP Committee

From: Brian Morris <brianmorris500@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2019 10:10 AM
To: EACP Committee
Subject: Hanakao'o Park bill introduction by Tamara Paltin. Community member personal statement

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to testify to the importance of outrigger canoe cultural and community activity at Hanakao'o Park. I am deeply troubled and saddened that outrigger canoes and the clubs associated with them may have trouble accessing the ocean from our current home at Hanakao'o Park, and am in support of Tamara Paltin's bill introduction.

I have lived in Lahaina for three years, and work as a Doctor of Physical Therapy serving the elderly community with home medical visits. Community health is very important to me, so much so that I have earned Bachelors degrees in both Public Health Sciences as well as Community Health in addition to my graduate work.

Canoe club access to the ocean at Hanakao'o Park is the single greatest endeavor I can fight for here at my home. The reason is that every day, hundreds of people of all ages rely on this access point to practice communion with community that provides a healthy and necessary social outlet, continued cultural legacy that provides meaning behind our day to day existence, physical exercise to maintain healthy lifestyles and disease prevention, and a dedication to integrity through community-wide goal setting making every attempt to achieve these goals.

There is no greater example of the importance and effect of these practices via canoe competition than the hundreds of keiki who learn deep life values in a safe, family oriented setting, through vigorous practice, competition, fund raising, and volunteered maintenance of public lands throughout the paddle season and year-round. Keiki who in the past challenged themselves have grown into adults who strengthen the fabric of our community, and encourage their children to participate and grow as they did. Simply, outrigger canoe club practice results in a pipeline of strong, positive, and responsible community, while providing memories that keiki carry forward throughout their lifetimes. Our canoe club haies **MUST** remain, and access to the ocean must not be hindered. To do so would change the face of our community, dishonor our local traditions and values, and remove valuable experience from our youth.

I support Tamara Paltin's bill. There is enough development in Ka'anapali area for tourism. Please allow the canoe clubs to maintain full unhindered access to Hanakao'o Park.

Aloha,

Dr. Brian Morris