



Kailua

HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB
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Re: Support for Trust for Public Land, Ho‘okua‘āina, Kauluakalana, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, and Hawai‘i Land Trust’s efforts to Purchase and Protect Palawai and Makali‘i, in Kailua, O‘ahu

To Whom it May Concern,

There can be no doubt that our islands are in big trouble over climate change and food security. Chip Fletcher, Interim Dean of UHM’s School of Ocean, Earth Science, and Technology, spells it out in the starkest of terms:

- Hope is our biggest enemy. We aren’t going to manage this with hope. But giving up, or taking a pessimistic approach, won’t help either. We must remain optimistic, and optimism is embedded in action.
- Climate change threatens Hawaii supply lines. To thrive, we need to unify the community and accelerate local food production...
- An agricultural revolution must take place. Producing beef generates 100 times more greenhouse gas than plant based food...
- Every part of society must experience transformational change – nobody, no segment of society, can sit this one out.

(“Questions with Chip Fletcher,” *Honolulu Star Advertiser*, May 5, 2022)

The Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club – in urgent recognition of a seminal opportunity for positive change in our ahupua‘a – strongly supports the efforts of the Trust for Public Land, Ho‘okua‘āina, Kauluakalana, Hui Maunawili-Kawainui, and Hawai‘i Land Trust to purchase and restore to health the once productive and culturally significant ‘ili ‘āina of Palawai (116 acres) and Makali‘i (59 acres) in Maunawili Valley, Kailua, O‘ahu.

We do so out of optimism embedded in action.

We do so in order to thrive, unify community, and accelerate local food production,

We do so in recognition of the need for an agricultural revolution.

We do so because of the imperative for transformational change, because we cannot sit this out.

We are partners in the years-long effort by Hui Maunawili-Kawainui and the Kailua community to protect 1,084 acres in Maunawili – including Palawai and Makali‘i – from subdivision, sale, and gentrification. We support the Hui’s vision to restore the health of Maunawili so that the valley can resume its vital and traditional role in the ahupua‘a of Kailua as a source of free-flowing water and a place of abundant agriculture and rich cultural resources.

We are in wholehearted support of Ho‘okua‘āina as the proposed future owner and steward of Palawai and of Kauluakalana as the proposed future owner and steward of Makali‘i. We do so because both organizations are dedicated not only to feeding our community but to the education of our community – our youth in particular – in the Hawaiian cultural traditions and practices that are at the core of our ability to feed ourselves. The credentials of both organizations are impeccable and their track records, unassailable. What each is doing now in small – at Ulupō, Manu, and Kapalai – is on the verge of becoming something big.

Established in 1959, the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club (KHCC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the perpetuation of our Hawaiian people, culture, and natural resources. We have held fast to the same threefold mission in the nearly six decades of our existence; we strive to: 1- advance the appreciation, study, and practice of Hawaiian culture, 2- enrich the lives of Hawaiians and our Kailua community, and 3- care for the lands, waters, and storied places of our ahupua‘a.

We were the State-authorized curators of Ulupō Heiau for 30 years – at first alone and later in partnership with ‘Ahahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi. In 2017, we initiated the transfer of this responsibility to the 501(c)(3) non-profit Hika‘alani in the belief that Hika‘alani had the energy, vision, and staffing to do more at Ulupō than could our once-a-month civic club septuagenarians. By early 2018, we were convinced that the Hika‘alani team at Ulupō, led since 2015 by Kaleo Wong and Maya Saffery, reified our best intentions there and embodied a much more competent version of our younger selves. Thus, we enthusiastically concurred with the Hika‘alani BOD’s decision, in 2019, to urge Wong and Saffery to take full charge of caring for Ulupō through the founding of their own 501(c)(3) non-profit: Kauluakalana.

Now, in mid-2022, we are in complete awe of the transformation that Kauluakalana has accomplished at Ulupō and the Army Corps of Engineers’ “bird pond” at Manu. We view this as the

passing of a legacy of stewardship across three generations of a single family, from the hi'ikua (carried on the back, no longer present) generation of Uncle Charlie Rose, to our own kaniko'o (cane-using, twilight) generation of Kailua descendants, to the ao mālamalama (full light of day, enlightened) generation that we have helped to raise.

We are confident that Palawai and Makali'i, under the turned-down-hands ("huli ka lima i lalo" – a Hawaiian proverb consistent with Fletcher's "optimism embedded in action") of the Wongs and Safferys at Kauluakalana, and their Wilhelm allies at Ho'okua'āina, will soon be in the care of those best equipped to "hear" and honor the 'āina, to act in its best interest, and to ensure that it serves as the model and anchor of 'ōiwi food sovereignty in the heart of our Kailua home.

'O au nō me ka ha'aha'a,

Kapalai'ula de Silva
President, Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club