



Board of Land and Natural Resources
DLNR Main Office
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

May 24, 2023

Re: In STRONG Support of the Kīpahulu Moku Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area Designation

Aloha e Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

As Chair of the Maui Nui Makai Network, I am very pleased to write this letter on behalf of the Network members, urging support for the proposal to designate a Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) for the moku (district) of Kīpahulu.

Founded in 2013, the Maui Nui Makai Network is a group of nine community organizations across Maui Nui (Maui, Lāna'i, Moloka'i, and Kaho'olawe) who are exerting our kuleana (responsibility) to care for the ocean in a way that honors our kūpuna (ancestors), and the traditional and cultural practices of our places. We work to protect and restore healthy coastal and marine ecosystems for the people of Maui Nui using powerful place-based, collaborative strategies.

Our support for the Kīpahulu Moku CBSFA is based on the following:

- Under the leadership of Kīpahulu 'Ōhana, Inc. (KOI), the CBSFA proposal and draft management plan have been over 10 years in the making, engaging many stakeholders, amassing over 600 signatures of support from East Maui residents, reaching over 260,000 people locally and globally with information regarding their management efforts, and allowing many different opportunities for community input along the way.
- KOI is a well-established and respected organization with over 25 years of experience conducting projects for ahupua'a management, including traditional Hawaiian agriculture and shoreline management. They have proven their ability to work in collaborative partnership with agencies and organizations for co-management efforts, and their capacity to sustain projects and programs over time.
- Kīpahulu moku, while rich in history, culture, and resources, is also under threat from various influences, including overharvesting and improper harvesting of marine resources.
- This effort aligns with and greatly supports the need for co-management of Hawai'i's nearshore resources by elevating indigenous community leadership and insight to inform decision-making.

- Such a designation would be consistent with Executive Order 18-06 (relating to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals) that supports an increase in community management of marine resources and the protection of Hawai'i's cultural and natural heritage.

KOI has the Network's full support in their efforts to designate the Kīpahulu moku as a Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area and enter into a co-management partnership with the Division of Aquatic Resources, and I urge the Board to look favorably on their application and approve the request for public hearing, and move the administrative rule-making process forward expeditiously.

Mahalo,
Solomon Kaho'ohalahala
Maui Nui Makai Network Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Solomon Kaho'ohalahala", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
In Support of Agenda Item F-3, "Briefing on Proposed Adoption of a New Chapter,
Chapter 13-60.11, Hawaii Administrative Rules, 'Kīpahulu Community-Based Subsistence
Fishing Area, Maui.'"**

**Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources
May 26, 2023, 9:15 AM
Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl St., Room 132 and via Teleconference**

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) strongly supports Kīpahulu 'Ohana's proposal to designate a Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) for the moku of Kīpahulu. Kīpahulu 'Ohana is a community-based organization that has worked diligently for the past ten years to engage the East Maui community in developing a CBSFA proposal guiding responsible fishing practices to restore abundance to Kīpahulu reefs and nearshore waters. The Kīpahulu CBSFA proposal is supported by more than 600 East Maui residents and is shaped by knowledge and observations of this place and its resources, traditional customs and subsistence practices gathered at community meetings, individual and family interviews, and talk-story sessions.

Guided by science and our mission to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends, TNC works with government and academic partners and more than 30 communities across the state to restore and protect the coastal habitats that support Hawai'i's culture, fisheries, economy, and way of life. Since 2008, TNC has partnered with the Kīpahulu 'Ohana to restore coastal resources through the establishment of a voluntary 'opihi rest area along the public access coastline of Haleakalā National Park in collaboration with the National Park Service and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. TNC also works closely with Kīpahulu 'Ohana through the Maui Nui Makai Network, a network of community groups across Maui Nui that care for the special places and natural resources on which we all depend.

Empowered communities like Kīpahulu will help the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources and Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement ensure that the State's marine resources are managed sustainably and that the benefits of food, shoreline protection, recreation, and cultural values will be available today and for future generations. Kama'āina families, kūpuna, keiki, fishers, gatherers, and other East Maui community members want to restore productive, sustainable subsistence fishing in their home. They have witnessed the dramatic declines in resource populations over generations, and they have the commitment, energy, knowledge, and connection to place necessary to help manage the area respectfully and sustainably.

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TNC recognizes and supports the longstanding efforts of Kīpahulu 'Ōhana as they continue to care for the natural and cultural resources of East Maui and fully supports the Kīpahulu community's proposal to designate the moku of Kīpahulu as a CBSFA. We request the Board support the Kīpahulu community and the continuation of the Chapter 91 rulemaking process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and the Board's support and stewardship of Hawai'i's natural resources.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Palmyra is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and work in over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties, and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and for the many benefits they provide to people.
