

February 5, 2018

HHF Planners

[733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590](#)

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Ronald A. Sato, Senior Associate: rsato@hhf.com

cc: Marigold.S.Zoll@hawaii.gov

Dear Mr. Sato,

I have lived in Ka'ōhāo since I was two, have no memory living anywhere else, and consider myself born and raised here in Ka'ōhāo. I am the middle generation of 5 (I clearly remember my grandmother living with us and my granddaughter now lives here with her parents as well) who have lived here and have cared for our community for almost 70 years.

For the last 42 years I have taught traditional hula and oli, Hawaiian values, Hawaiian culture, and everything remotely related to all of these things through my life long work. I have been caring for Ulupō, Kawainui, Ka'ōhāo, Kailua, and everyone and everything in our ahupua'a my entire life. I have seen so many of my extended family (mostly kanaka 'ōiwi, native indigenous Hawaiians) move away, but I am committed to stay. Why? Because if some of us don't stay and take care of the land, resources, and things of our ancestors who will?

We do not bother those who oppose the plan. We do not tell them what they should and should not do, even though we were here long before they arrived and settled. We do not stop them from settling here and changing our way of life to be influenced by their desires. We have not tried to kick them out or tried to stop them from turning our kanaka 'ōiwi community to the current southern California influenced Kailua.

All we want is for them to allow us to do the same, allow us to continue what our ancestors generations and tens of decades ago did. We are a living culture, but we need a place to live and to thrive. We refuse to be choked out. We will not leave. We will find ways to continue caring for the land and the people we love.

All we would like is for the master plan to help us do that. We are not the only ones committed to this way of life, we have hundreds of families with children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who are already working the land and caring for our community. And we are just the beginning of the many generations to follow our lead. We are here to stay.

E 'onipa'a kākou!

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