



## RE: BLNR Meeting 4/11/25 9:00am Agenda Item D1 - Testimony in Opposition

Hawai‘i Unites is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation and protection of our environment and natural resources. We are opposed to the BLNR’s “Issuance of Direct Lease to the University of Hawaii for Avian Rescue and Research Purposes and Issuance of Immediate Management Right-of-Entry, Hanapepe, Waimea, Kauai, Tax Map Key: (4) 1-8-008:063.”

The rights claimed by the state to this land are in dispute. Kānaka stewarding the land at ‘Āina Pueo (referred to by the state as “Tax Map Key: (4) 1-8-008:063”) assert that these are Hawai‘i Crown Lands. An active case is in the courts and has not yet been adjudicated (CAAP-23-0000567).

Under the guise of “research and conservation,” the BLNR and their agency partners seek to displace Kānaka Maoli from ancestral lands and turn sacred ‘āina of Hanapēpē into a base camp for dangerous biotech experiments.

According to the [submittal](#) for this [agenda](#) item D1, “Due to the recent dramatic declines in forest bird populations on Kaua‘i and new advances in technologies to address their primary threat, mosquito-borne diseases, KFBRP’s budget and staff have recently increased almost two-fold.”

Current “advances in technologies” in use by KFBRP (Kaua‘i Forest Bird Recovery Project) and their *Birds, Not Mosquitoes* agency partners include the release of millions of *Wolbachia*-bacteria-infected mosquitoes on our fragile ecosystems on Maui and Kaua‘i. No studies have been done on the potential significant impacts of these projects or on the serious risks to the health of our islands’ people, wildlife, and ‘āina. No environmental impact statement (EIS) has been completed for any island. Hawai‘i Unites’ active [court case](#)<sup>2</sup> to stop the mosquito releases on Maui and require an EIS brings forth several significant concerns, including:

- Accidental release of female mosquitoes that bite, breed, and spread disease ([EPA guidelines](#)<sup>3</sup> allow for the release of one female for every 250,000 males; just one female released can produce 160,000 more females through breeding of the generations in her lifespan; 3,103 females are allowed to be released weekly on [Maui](#)<sup>4</sup> – up to 6,000 mosquitoes released twice weekly per acre in the 64,666-acre project area:  $6,000 \times 2 \times 64,666 = 775,992,000$  mosquitoes divided by 250,000 equals 3,103 females weekly)
- Peer-reviewed studies showing *Wolbachia* bacteria can cause [increased pathogen infection](#)<sup>5</sup> and [disease-spreading capability](#)<sup>5,6</sup> in mosquitoes
- [Horizontal transmission](#)<sup>7</sup> of *Wolbachia* bacteria to wild mosquitoes and other insect vectors of disease
- Population replacement of wild mosquitoes with lab-altered mosquitoes (as few as [three females released](#)<sup>8</sup> can cause population replacement)
- Wind drift of released mosquitoes to unintended areas



- Lack of documented biosecurity protocols and pathogen screenings for the imported mosquitoes
- Risks to the health of people and animals, and the potential for the plan to cause the extinction of the native birds it is meant to protect

Tropical disease and vector expert Dr. Lorrin Pang has [testified](#)<sup>9</sup> as an expert witness in our [case](#)<sup>10</sup> and has affirmed that this mosquito experiment has not been studied enough for the State of Hawai‘i and its agency partners to move forward. Dr. Pang has decades of experience as a leader in mitigating mosquito-borne diseases. He has authored over 75 publications in peer-reviewed medical journals, over 40 of which are focused specifically on mosquito-borne illnesses.

The mosquitoes currently being released in the millions on Maui and Kaua‘i are experimental. Southern house mosquitoes lab-infected with *Wolbachia* bacteria have never been documented as used for stand-alone field release anywhere in the world. The 64,666-acre East Maui project area is the largest *Wolbachia* mosquito release of any kind globally to date, and Kaua‘i’s 59,204-acre project area is the second largest.

The agencies releasing these lab-altered mosquitoes have [admitted](#)<sup>11</sup> that the plan does not include monitoring the effects of the experimental mosquitoes on forest birds.

Mass release of these mosquitoes began on Maui in November 2023. The DLNR, University of Hawai‘i, KFBRP, and their partnering agencies have produced no data on the results of these mosquito releases. There has been no indication that the plan is even working for its intended purpose. Deviations from the approved plan have also been occurring for over a year. Mosquitoes are being released solely by helicopter rather than by drone, exacerbating concerns about noise disturbances, disruptions to wildlife habitat, and the potential for collisions, accidents, and wildland fires. The helicopter longline release system described in the environmental assessment is not the system being used, and helicopters appear to be flying closer to the tree canopy than the approved distance, increasing the potential for adverse impacts.

As of February 2025, mosquitoes are now also being mass released on Kaua‘i. Additionally, aerial spraying of Bti larvicide on Maui and Kaua‘i in combination with the aerial release of bacteria-infected mosquitoes is now occurring. This combination of products is not part of the approved plans, and no studies have been done on the impacts of these activities to our environment. The agencies involved have not addressed concerns about potential data falsification due to the use of two different mosquito suppression products within each project area.

Hawai‘i Unites opposes the use of sacred lands of Hanapēpē to execute the mass release of experimental *Wolbachia*-bacteria-infected mosquitoes on the island of Kaua‘i. Conservation efforts must focus on more environmentally sound approaches like habitat and stream flow



restoration, which would honor the ‘āina, the culture, and the ancestral connections of the native birds rather than putting them at further risk of extinction.

We stand in firm opposition to all BLNR actions that dishonor the ‘āina and the ancestors.

Aloha,  
Tina Lia  
Founder  
Hawai‘i Unites  
[HawaiiUnites.org](https://www.hawaiiunites.org)

### References

1. Department of Land and Natural Resources Fiscal Biennium FB 2025-27 Budget Overview  
[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/testimony/Info\\_Testimony\\_WAM\\_01-13-25\\_DLNR.pdf](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/testimony/Info_Testimony_WAM_01-13-25_DLNR.pdf)
2. Hawaii Unites and Tina Lia v. Board of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai‘i, and Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai‘i (5/8/23)  
[https://hawaiiunites.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023\\_0508\\_Hawaii\\_Unites\\_and\\_Lia\\_v\\_BLNR\\_and\\_DLNR.pdf](https://hawaiiunites.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023_0508_Hawaii_Unites_and_Lia_v_BLNR_and_DLNR.pdf)
3. EPA Emerging Mosquito Control Technologies  
<https://www.epa.gov/regulation-biotechnology-under-tsca-and-fifra/emerging-mosquito-control-technologies>  
DLNR HDOA Request to Import Southern House Mosquitoes for Immediate Field Release (6/9/22)  
<https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DLNR-Culex-quinquefasciatus-PA-All-Docs.pdf>  
“There is an EPA reviewed value of 1 female release per 250,000 males with the MosquitoMate product. A similar value is likely to be estimated for Culex quinquefasciatus given that similar automation, engineering and machine learning technology is being applied to sex sorting.”
4. Final Environmental Assessment: Suppression of Invasive Mosquito Populations to Reduce Transmission of Avian Malaria to Threatened and Endangered Forest Birds on East Maui EA-FONSI (4/8/23)  
[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/Doc\\_Library/2023-04-08-MA-FEA-Suppression-of-Mosquitoes-on-East-Maui.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/Doc_Library/2023-04-08-MA-FEA-Suppression-of-Mosquitoes-on-East-Maui.pdf)  
“The project area includes approximately 64,666 acres...”  
“Based on current estimates, we expect to release between 50 and 6,000 incompatible mosquitoes per acre per treatment (which would occur up to twice per week) depending



on elevation and local temperature and capture data gathered during monitoring.”

5. “*Wolbachia* Can Enhance *Plasmodium* Infection in Mosquitoes: Implications for Malaria Control?” – Grant L. Hughes, Ana Rivero, Jason L. Rasgon (PLOS Pathogens, 9/4/14)  
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4154766/>
6. “*Wolbachia* Enhances West Nile Virus (WNV) Infection in the Mosquito *Culex tarsalis*” – Brittany L. Dodson, Grant L. Hughes, Oluwatobi Paul, Amy C. Maticchiero, Laura D. Kramer, Jason L. Rasgon (PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases, 7/10/14)  
<https://journals.plos.org/plosntds/article?id=10.1371/journal.pntd.0002965>
7. “*Wolbachia* infection in wild mosquitoes (Diptera: Culicidae): implications for transmission modes and host-endosymbiont associations in Singapore” – Huicong Ding, Huiqing Yeo, Nalini Puniamoorthy (BMC, 12/9/20)  
<https://parasitesandvectors.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13071-020-04466-8>  
“*Wolbachia* Horizontal Transmission Events in Ants: What Do We Know and What Can We Learn?” – Sarah J. A. Tolley, Peter Nonacs, Panagiotis Sapountzis (Frontiers in Microbiology, 03/06/19)  
<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/microbiology/articles/10.3389/fmicb.2019.00296/full>  
“The Intracellular Bacterium *Wolbachia* Uses Parasitoid Wasps as Phoretic Vectors for Efficient Horizontal Transmission” – Muhammad Z. Ahmed, Shao-Jian Li, Xia Xue, Xiang-Jie Yin, Shun-Xiang Ren, Francis M. Jiggins, Jaco M. Greeff, Bao-Li Qiu (National Center for Biotechnology Information, National Library of Medicine, 02/12/15)  
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4347858/>
8. “*Wolbachia*-mediated sterility suppresses *Aedes aegypti* populations in the urban tropics” – The Project *Wolbachia* – Singapore Consortium, Ng Lee Ching (medRxiv, 6/17/21)  
<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.06.16.21257922v1.full>
9. Transcript of Hearing 7/21/23: Plaintiffs’ Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction  
<https://hawaiiunites.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/HIUnitesvBLNR072123Audio.pdf>
10. Plaintiffs’ Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction (6/20/23)  
[https://hawaiiunites.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023\\_0620\\_Hawaii\\_Unites\\_and\\_Lia\\_v\\_BLNR\\_and\\_DLNR\\_Plaintiffs\\_Motion\\_for\\_TRO\\_Preliminary\\_Injunction\\_Filed\\_All\\_Documents.pdf](https://hawaiiunites.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023_0620_Hawaii_Unites_and_Lia_v_BLNR_and_DLNR_Plaintiffs_Motion_for_TRO_Preliminary_Injunction_Filed_All_Documents.pdf)
11. Final Environmental Assessment for Use of *Wolbachia*-based Incompatible Insect Technique for the Suppression of Non-native Southern House Mosquito Populations on Kaua’i EA-FONSI (10/13/23)  
[https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/Doc\\_Library/2023-10-23-KA-FEA-Wolbachia-based-](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/Doc_Library/2023-10-23-KA-FEA-Wolbachia-based-)



[Suppression-of-Mosquitoes-on-Kauai.pdf](#)

“Monitoring of birds is beyond the scope of this EA.”

**From:** [Alison Lewis](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] April 11 2025 agenda item d1. Opposed.  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 9:38:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [83E3FDD9-3AB0-4535-860B-BEDAF4E5C6DA.png](#)

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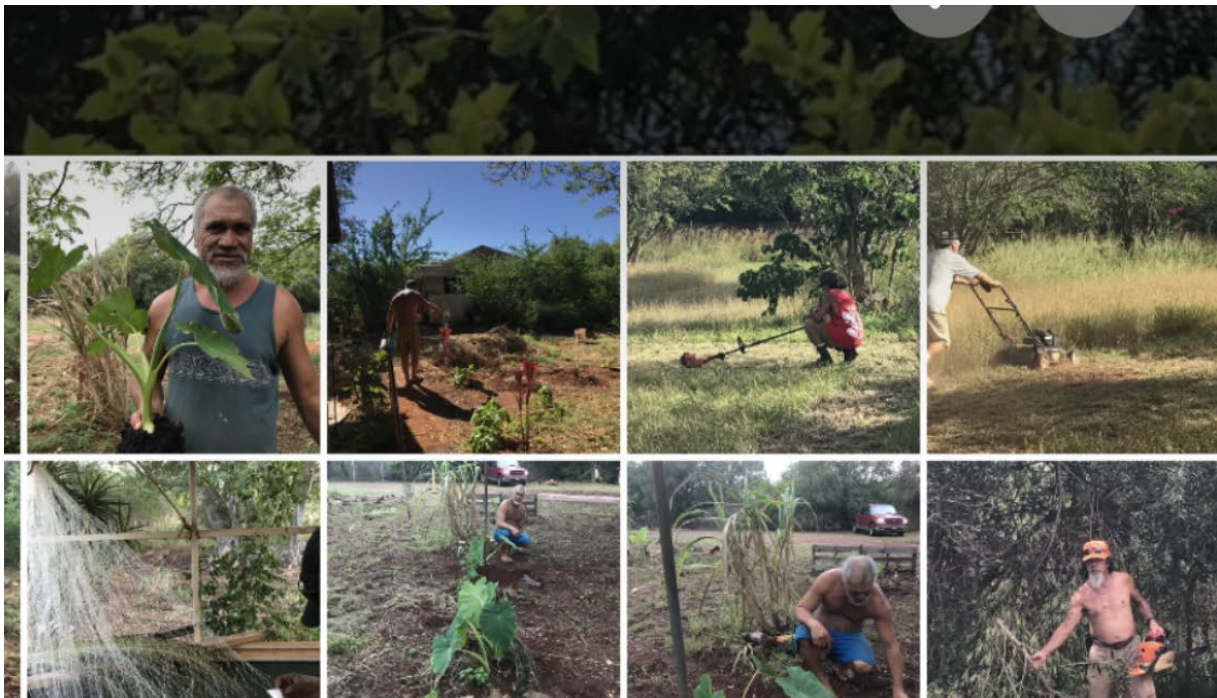
Esteemed Boardmembers,

No matter which state or county administrative entity is assigned to “dictate” over the Crown Lands of Hawaii, the indelible fact is that native tenants have the right to be on the land. Any action to “sweep” them from the land is a crime. DLNR plays at assigning and retracting and renumbering executive orders as if the humans on the actual land are just so many monopoly game peices; Pick up the board and pour them all onto the floor and start another game. Each of you will someday be held accountable for your willing role in genocide. UH personnel will be judged for their part in this as well.

These photos, attached, are all taken on the parcel in question, between 2017 and 2025. I have hundreds more photos like these, and the county has seen them too. Hawaiian Nationals caring for their native land and their community withOUT the help of any funds from county, state, or nonprofit organizations. And for this, they are labeled “squatters,” and will be swept aside like vermin.

Shame on all of you.

Alison Lewis  
Kaua‘i resident





# *International Grand Jury, Kauai, Hawaii*

Testimony in opposition: RE: BLNR Meeting 4/11/25 9:00 am Agenda Item D1

Issuance of Direct Lease of these CROWN LANDS to the University of Hawaii for Avian Rescue and Releasing of Geoengineered Mosquitoes and Issuance of Immediate Management Right-of-Entry, Hanapepe, Waimea, Kauai, Tax Map Key: (4) 1-8-008:063 is PROHIBITED due to **Violation of Mandated Laws of Occupation, Racketeering influence and Criminal activity / RICO.**

- HAWAII CROWN LANDS, Hanapepe, Kauai
- 5DRC-23-0000125 has become:
- **Case # CAAP-23-0000567 (Intermediate Court of Appeals)**
- **Still sitting in the State of Hawaii Supreme Court.**

Therefore the meeting agenda for today April 11, 2025 is **Null and Void and fraudulent.**

- The Corporate State of Hawaii knows that without a lawful treaty of annexation, the Laws of Occupation apply.
- Corporate Attorney General, Lopez, Dawn Chang, and numerous other Agents for US Corporation **have continually acquiesced** all communications by HTG (Hawaii Transitional Governance), **therefore agreeing that Kingdom of Hawaii in Continuity, is under illegal, belligerent occupation by the corporation of Hawaii in Washington DC.**
- **Done, the occupation is over due to this acquiescence by agents of the Corporation.**

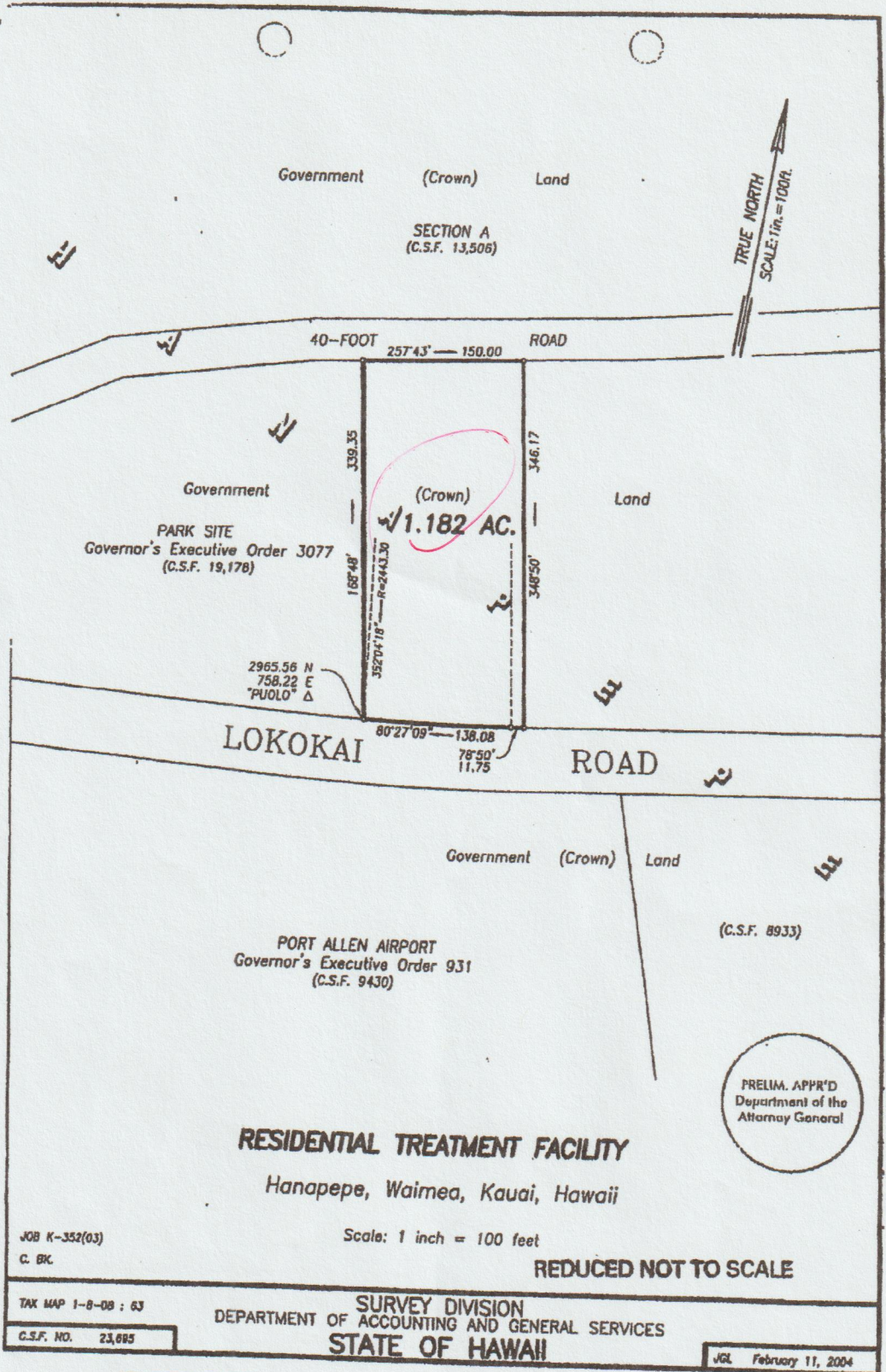
The following two sentences were filed in District Court of the Fifth Circuit, State of Hawaii, October 2, 2023 regarding the CROWN Land property in question.

- The Hawaiian Kingdom exists in Continuity and is not signatory to any other agendas.
- Laws of Occupation apply and International Law **mandates** the occupier must administrate Laws of the occupied country.

Testimony submitted by:

Reverend J. M. Taylor, Plenipotentiary, Kingdom of Hawaii / USA

[hnlakauai@gmail.com](mailto:hnlakauai@gmail.com)



**EXHIBIT "B"**

**From:** [Jo Amsterdam](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Alison Lewis](#); [jo Amsterdam](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] April 11 agenda item D1:opposed  
**Date:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 10:22:33 AM

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Aloha BLNR humans,

I am a resident of Kaua'i and I wonder why Hawaiians are pushed from ancestral land? The Aina in question was a total mess under County and State Control. Completely neglected for decades. Now there is an interest in the land since it is being lived on by Hawaiian people. They have improved the space by cleaning out dumped cars and plenty opala. Please reconsider and allow their continued stewardship. Mahalo for your consideration. Sincerely Jo Amsterdam Kalaheo

**From:** [Julia Diegmann](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [KAUAIFORESTBIRDS-Cali](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item D-1, April 11 BLNR meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 4:12:08 PM

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Aloha,

I work with Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project and am available to answer questions regarding the work of this project tomorrow. Please send me the Zoom link.

Mahalo,

- Julia.

Julia Diegmann, PhD  
Planner  
Kauai Forest Bird Recovery Project  
PO Box 27 (USPS mail) or 3751 Hanapepe Rd (courier packages)  
Hanapepe HI 96716 -0027  
808.335.5078

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Website: [kauaiforestbirds.org](http://kauaiforestbirds.org)  
Socials: [@kauaiforestbirds](#)  
Linktree: [flow.page/kauaiforestbirds](https://flow.page/kauaiforestbirds)  
Youtube Channel: [bit.ly/KFBRPvideos](https://bit.ly/KFBRPvideos)

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Bird-related resources, information, crafts, activities: [dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/manu/](http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/manu/)  
Mosquito Control Project: [birdsnotmosquitoes.org](http://birdsnotmosquitoes.org)

**From:** [Kauai Foundation](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: URGENT - Violation of Mandated Laws of Occupation, Racketeering influence and Criminal Activity / RICO  
**Date:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 8:45:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [HTG - Testimony on Aina Pueo April 11, 2025 by International Grand Jury \(1\).docx](#)

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kauai Foundation** <[kauaifoundation@gmail.com](mailto:kauaifoundation@gmail.com)>  
Date: Thu, Apr 10, 2025 at 8:43 AM  
Subject: URGENT - Violation of Mandated Laws of Occupation, Racketeering influence and Criminal Activity / RICO  
To: <[crampton@hawaii.edu](mailto:crampton@hawaii.edu)>, <[Tyler@kauaiforestbirds.org](mailto:Tyler@kauaiforestbirds.org)>, HNLA Kauai <[hnlakauai@gmail.com](mailto:hnlakauai@gmail.com)>

Aloha,

Please review Testimony and Map of CROWN lands in opposition to the U of H agreement as your organization is being set up in "**Violation of Mandated Laws of Occupation, Racketeering influence and Criminal Activity / RICO**".

The Occupation has ended due to Acquiescence by top Agents of the Corporation.

In addition, be advised, the property in Hanapepe is constantly bombarded by Ghost, and Negative Spirit activity due to Cemetary, site of Heiau and the site of the **The Hanapēpē Massacre** (also called the **Battle of Hanapēpē**) occurred on September 9, 1924.

STOP supporting War Crimes, Treason is the Crime. Please review "The Law of Land Warfare - FM 27-10" Department of the Army Field Manual.

Pono is Key, for the good of all concerned.

Rev. J. M. Taylor, Plenipotentiary, Liaison, Kingdom of Hawaii in Continuity, USA Honest American Patriots and American Consulate, Kauai.  
808-652-2726

**From:** [Humanitree Movement](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony  
**Date:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 10:52:50 AM

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Aloha my name is Jan Westphal

I am a resident of Kauai. Please do not give the land called "Aina Pueo" to the UH bird sanctuary. There are local native Hawaiians living there and managing the land with full cultural practices. I understand you were trying to do good by giving it to a Bird protection group but these Hawaiians have been stewarding this land for the past 15 years. The land was completely overgrown and I had assisted in clearing land. Then it was made functional and beautiful. There are dance practices, Hawaiian plants, imu (underground oven), gatherings and a general place for natural indigenous culture. Please honor the work and the culture...  
sincerely

Jan Westphal

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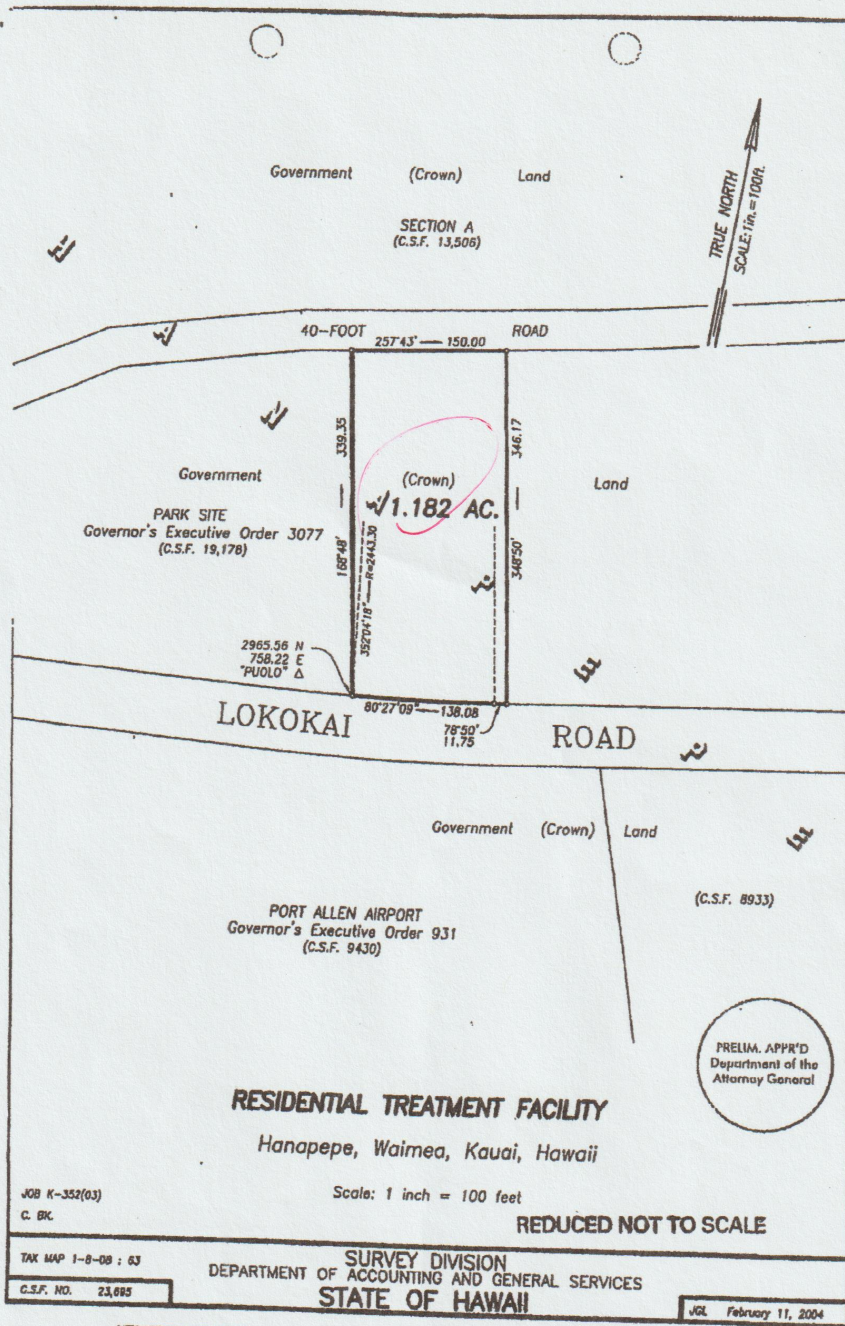
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Testimony submitted by:

Reverend J. M. Taylor, Plenipotentiary, Kingdom of Hawaii / USA

[hnlakauai@gmail.com](mailto:hnlakauai@gmail.com)



**EXHIBIT "B"**

**From:** [Tom Kanahele](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] April 11 agenda item D1: opposed  
**Date:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 11:32:41 AM

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To the occupying state "BLNR"

We are kanaka oiwi of the west side of Kauai. We oppose agenda item D1. BLNR does a fake-state wand-waving and then pretends like the community approves of it. In truth the majority are unaware of your sneak attack "agenda items," like this one you slipped by everyone back in January where you decided mosquitos and birds are more important than human beings on the land and that UH knows more about caring for our land than we do.

We are Kanaka maoli and Hawaiian nationals of the west side of Kauai. We do not ever approve of a state agency removing Hawaiian nationals from the land. And we will all unite and resist this action. It is unlawful and it is genocide.

Signed by all three of us and sent from one email address, this day of April 10 2025

Tom Kealii Kanahele,  
Timothy Oga, and  
Punohu Kekaulua

**From:** [Keisha Kilar](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition  
**Date:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:37:53 PM

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Testimony of Opposition to BLNR meeting 4/11, Agenda item D-1.

This is NOT the cite to be doing Avian Rescue and Research... UH needs to rethink their placement plans because My Iwi Kupuna are buried here!!!

To read what state and County officials paint our people of Hawaii out to be "Squatters" is unacceptable. It shouts discrimination. When will it stop?

We are Kanaka..Stewards/Care takers, Educators, and PROTECTORS of this Aina in question ... We are also not just stewards of the living but protectors of the MANY Iwi Kupuna that is buried throughout this property and ALL surrounding parcels.

My Grandfather Benjamin Kali Sr. Was the care taker of this Aina and an advocate for many others on the State and counties agenda, now that he's gone I am here to say A'ole to agenda Item D-1.

This land belongs to the people and shouldn't be exploited for research, this grounds specifically is SACRED Burials. PLEASE be considerate of descendants still protecting this sacred site.

WE ARE NOT "SQUATTERS".