

NĀNĀKULI-MĀ'ILI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD

RESOLUTION ASKING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO DENY AND  
REVOKE CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS OF KAUKONAHUA RANCH, LLC'S  
KAMANANUI PROJECT ON THE SLOPES OF THE WAI'ANAE MOUNTAINS IN THE  
MOKU OF WAIALUA

WHEREAS, the Wai'anae mountain range form the western border of the Waialua Moku and the Wai'anae Moku with Mauna Ka'ala being the highest elevation on O'ahu, Hawaii, one of the most sacred in Hawaiian tradition as a wao akua (dwelling place for gods and spirits); and

WHEREAS, Mauna Ka'ala as well as all the other mountain peaks in the Wai'anae mountain range, as being sacred to kānaka maoli (native Hawaiian people) and play a significant role in the culture, language, oli (chant), and mo'olelo (story, myth, legend, history, or tradition) like the legends of Mauna Ka'ala being the realm of the goddess Kainoa, the guide of lost souls and a significant site in the myth of Hi'iakaikapoliopole's journey; and

WHEREAS, the Wai'anae mountain range is home to native ecosystems and a habitat to many endangered endemic Hawaiian plants species including and not limited to the koli'i (Hawaiian lobeliad), giant 'ape'ape (large, round leaves hosts blue-green algae), 'ohi'a lehua (flowering evergreen tree) 'olapa (important food source for native birds), hapu'u (large tree fern for medicine and food), kanawao (Hawaiian relative of the garden hydrangea), koa (native tree valued for its wood and aids in restoring native habitats); and that these habitats have been eroded and taken away; and

WHEREAS, the Wai'anae mountain range is home to native ecosystems and a habitat to many endangered Hawaiian animal species including and not limited to the 'apapane (Hawaiian honey creeper), pue'o (Hawaiian short-eared owl), 'ōpe'ape'a (Hawaiian hoary bat), kāhuli (Hawaiian snail), 'ua'u (Hawaiian petrel, endangered sea bird, some consider as a family or personal 'aumakua-god); and that these habitats have been eroded and taken away; and

WHEREAS, the Wai'anae mountain range, including Mauna Ka'ala which serves as a critical cloud forest ecosystem captures moisture from passing clouds, providing essential freshwater to the island's ground water; and

WHEREAS, the local communities most affected have serious concerns regarding the potential negative impacts to the culturally significant landscapes, to the native ecosystems (endangered plants and animals), to the area's watershed, and the misuse of agricultural lands which should be properly utilized to feed our communities; and

WHEREAS, our local rural communities, are in a STATE OF CRISIS due to the continuing pressures on our infrastructure; including our roadways, our sewage systems, our beach parks, and our ecosystems that are at an unsustainable tipping point which adversely affects the health, safety and well-being of our local communities which adversely affect the health, safety, and well-being of our local residents; and

WHEREAS, this proposed visitor center would be located on one of the most dangerous stretches of Kaukonahua Road, which is already considered the most dangerous road on O'ahu; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting has received an application to modify the original Conditional Use Permit, Minor approved in 2019 Kaukonahua Ranch LLC's Kamananui Project, and that these modifications will severely and negatively impact the Wai'anae mountain range and our local communities, and allow for tourist activities that will certainly be the primary use of the land, rather than agricultural use of the land as zoned; and

WHEREAS, these modifications will permanently desecrate the cultural importance of the area as well as harm and permanently deplete the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, these modifications serve no beneficial purpose to our local communities, rather, they further exploit and commercialize agricultural lands meant to grow food not profits for foreigners, and further commercialize the natural environment and take money out of our local communities; and

WHEREAS, these modifications clearly do not fall within the guidelines of a minor permit by their scope and breadth of impact on the land; and

WHEREAS, no proper archaeological and cultural surveys have been conducted, no proper traffic studies have been conducted, no proper environmental studies have been conducted, and no proper local community outreach has been conducted; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nānākuli-Mā'ili Neighborhood Board respectfully request that the Department of Planning and Permitting deny the request for these modifications and revoke the original Conditional Use Permit, Minor as the Kamananui Project, even as originally conceived, far exceeds accessory use on agricultural land and the applicant has not met the conditions of the original permit in the 6 years it has been in effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nānākuli-Mā'ili Neighborhood Board No. 36, submit this resolution to Hawai'i State Governor Josh Green, Senator Samantha DeCorte, Representative Darius Kila, Mayor Richard Blangiardi, City Councilwoman Andria Tupola, with a request to urge the Department of Planning & Permitting Director Dawn Takeuchi Apuna to deny and revoke further development on Mauna Ka'ala at Kaukonahua Ranch effective immediately.

INTRODUCED: September 16, 2025

Malia Agustin

Chair

Nānākuli-Mā'ili Neighborhood Board #36

Motioned by:                      Seconded by:

ADOPTED BY BOARD MEMBERS: