

**URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND
PERMITTING TO DENY KAUKONAHUA RANCH'S CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT
MODIFICATION FOR THE KAMANANUI PROJECT
ON THE SLOPES OF MT. KA'ALA**

WHEREAS, Mililani Town was established in the late 1960s as a master planned community on former plantation lands, with Mt. Ka'ala, the highest peak on O'ahu, serving as a visible and cultural landmark that defines the Mililani community's northwestern horizon; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Ka'ala is sacred to kānaka maoli, honored in mo'olelo and oli, and is home to one of the last remaining pristine native rainforests in Hawai'i, protected within the State's Conservation District and Natural Area Reserve; and

WHEREAS, the Wai'anae mountain range, including Mt. Ka'ala, provides critical habitat for rare and endangered native species, including but not limited to koli'i blooms, 'ape'ape, 'ōhi'a lehua, 'ōpe'ape'a (Hawaiian hoary bat), pueo (Hawaiian short-eared owl), kāhuli (Hawaiian tree snails), and ua'u (Hawaiian petrel), species whose habitats have already been diminished and fragmented; and

WHEREAS, a developer, Kaukonahua Ranch, LLC, has applied for a minor modification of Conditional Use Permit No. 2019/CUP-18 to allow agribusiness and "agritourism" uses—including gondolas, ziplines, new hiking and biking trails crossing Kaukonahua Stream and its valley, infrastructure ascending Mt. Ka'ala, and wastewater treatment stations—with the most recent proposal requiring two on-site wastewater management systems and related infrastructure in a "No Pass Zone" as defined by the Board of Water Supply; and

WHEREAS, by pursuing a minor rather than major permit modification, the project circumvents key safeguards, including an Environmental Impact Statement, archaeological and cultural surveys, traffic studies, and the broader community engagement otherwise required under Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 343; and

WHEREAS, Kaukonahua Ranch, LLC, met with the North Shore Neighborhood Board in 2018 only once prior to disclosing any specific plans or intentions, and pursued this development without returning to the North Shore Neighborhood Board again nor gaining the North Shore community's support; and

WHEREAS, no cultural or environmental studies or meaningful community outreach have been conducted, yet the project proposes heavy infrastructure, increased water and plumbing use, and high tourist traffic in fragile areas, heightening risks of ecosystem degradation, erosion, and fire near the Conservation District and Natural Area Reserve that protect rare and endangered species; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ag-tourism activities raise serious questions about whether gondolas, ziplines, and mountain biking on steep mountain terrain are consistent with the intended use of agricultural lands, pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 205; and

WHEREAS, the only access to the project site is Kaukonahua Road, a narrow, unlit, single-lane highway with steep drop-offs and limited visibility, long recognized as “the most dangerous road on O‘ahu” for its high fatality rate per mile, with more than 30 deaths since 1999—including Mililani residents—as well as numerous major accidents, head-on collisions, and pedestrian injuries; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project would substantially increase traffic on this hazardous roadway, adding tour buses, commercial vans, and rental vehicles unfamiliar with its conditions, thereby compounding risks of fatal accidents, delaying emergency response, and worsening congestion; and

WHEREAS, the Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu, Mililani Mauka-Launani Valley, Wahiawā, and North Shore Neighborhood Boards convened a historic joint meeting on July 30, 2025, to hear about the project proposal, at which the developer declined to appear or be present; and

WHEREAS, over 150 residents from North Shore, Wahiawā, and Mililani opposed the project, citing traffic and safety risks, cultural desecration, ecosystem loss, and misuse of agricultural lands; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu Neighborhood Board No. 25 opposes the proposed Kamananui Project, raising serious concerns about compliance with agricultural land use regulations and the appropriateness of gondolas, ziplines, and mountain biking as qualifying ag-tourism uses; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu Neighborhood Board No. 25 finds the project would cause significant cultural and environmental harm by degrading lands near the Conservation District, Natural Area Reserve, and native rainforest, with permanent impacts from gondola towers, new trails, and increased visitor traffic in fragile ecosystems; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu Neighborhood Board No. 25 emphasizes the serious public safety risks of adding tour bus and visitor traffic to Kaukonahua Road, already known as O‘ahu’s most dangerous road for its history of fatalities and major accidents, risks that would be compounded by the project’s scale and location; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu Neighborhood Board No. 25 urges the Department of Planning and Permitting to deny the requested CUP minor modification and require the applicant to pursue a CUP major permit with an Environmental Impact Statement and meaningful community consultation; and be it so

ORDERED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting; the Director of the Department of Transportation Services; all Honolulu City Council members; the Chairs of the North Shore, Wahiawā, and Mililani Mauka-Launani Valley Neighborhood Boards; members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature representing these communities; the Director of the Hawai‘i Department of Transportation; the Chairperson of the Hawai‘i State Department of Agriculture; the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and the Administrator of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife.