

Keep the North Shore Country

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grateful for Government Actions to Reject the Gondola on Mt. Ka'ala

Keep the North Shore Country is grateful for the strong leadership from State and City officials in stopping the proposed gondola from being built on the side of Mount Ka'ala. This ill-advised and extremely unwelcome project was presented as an agricultural accessory business, even though it was indisputably conceived as a tourist attraction and the primary use of land zoned for agriculture.

Mahalo to Representative Sean Quinaln for introducing HB1881, which bans commercial gondolas, cable cars and ropeways in Hawaii. Rep. Quinlan's leadership was instrumental in moving the bill through the legislature. The measure was unanimously approved and Governor Josh Green signed it into law on June 26, 2026.

Mahalo to Mayor Rick Blangiardi and his administration for their extensive reconsideration of the 2019 Conditional Use Permit (CUP) approval that had previously allowed the controversial project. The Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting issued an 80-page Decision of Reconsideration describing the significance of new information, requested changes by the developer, and lack of action towards fulfilling the conditions. The gondola is deemed to not be accessory to agricultural activity and is no longer permitted. The agricultural elements of the project remain conditionally approved.

Mahalo to Councilmembers Tommy Waters and Esther Kia'aina for introducing the Honolulu City Council resolution opposing the project, to the entire Council and numerous Neighborhood Boards who passed resolutions in opposition, to the network of organizations who stood united as Kupa'a Ka'ala Alliance, and to the countless and ever-expanding number of residents who opposed the proposed gondola project.

We are grateful our government officials stepped up to correct the error of the 2019 approval.