

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

October 28, 2010

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF A HEARING MASTER'S REPORT,
WITHDRAWAL OF APPROXIMATELY 1,500 ACRES OF A
PORTION OF GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION DATED
DECEMBER 22, 1928 FROM THE KAHIKINUI FOREST RESERVE
AND RE-SET ASIDE AS THE NAKULA NATURAL AREA
RESERVE, AT NAKULA AND KAHIKINUI, HANA, MAUI, TMK (2)
1-8-001:por. 6 & (2) 1-8-001:009

BACKGROUND:

A portion of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve (established by Governor's Proclamation dated December 2, 1928), on the southern slope of Haleakala, is proposed to become part of the State of Hawaii Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) as the Nakula Natural Area Reserve (NAR). The Nakula NAR would include an area of approximately 1,500 acres in the ahupuaa of Nakula and Kahikinui on the south slope of Haleakala. The area is in the Resource Subzone of the Conservation District. Attachment 1 contains maps and a description of the important and unique resources that led to the nomination of this area as a NAR. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) recommended this proposal on December 1, 2009 (Attachment 2), and the NARS Commission recommended the NAR proposal at its January 20, 2010 meeting.

Approval to hold a public hearing was granted by the Board of Land and Natural Resources on February 11, 2010. Notice of public hearing was published in newspapers statewide pursuant to HRS §183 and §195. A press release and notice of the hearing was issued to newspapers and to interested parties (See Attachment 1, Section VI). On April 28, 2010, at 5:30 pm, an informational public meeting was offered to clarify the proposal, answer questions, and introduce DOFAW staff prior to the public hearing at 6:30 pm, at the Kula Community Center. DOFAW staff and 48 members of the public attended. Written comments were also accepted. Testimony from organizations or individuals included: 94 in support, 4 provided comments, 15 in opposition. A list of 75 additional names were also submitted in opposition to the NAR proposal. Attachment 3 contains the hearing master's report as well as the full text of the testimony received on the proposal.

ANALYSIS

A summary of the comments received is divided into categories below, followed by staff analyses. In addition to testimony on the proposed change of designation, many comments addressed: 1) The lack of public access to the subject area; and 2) The Kahikinui Koa Forest Protection and Restoration Project to construct a pig and deer-proof fence over approximately 1,500 acres of Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands (DHHL) and DOFAW land, including most portions of the subject area. The Final Environmental Assessment for the fence project was published in 2004, however, partners are revising compliance documents to change the boundaries of the proposed fences and include additional units, which will undergo a public comment process. The purpose of the fence is to exclude ungulates, allowing regrowth of koa forest, and subsequent reintroduction of endangered forest birds to an improved habitat on leeward Haleakala. The project is being undertaken in cooperation with DHHL, Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership, Ka Ohana O Kahikinui, and Living Indigenous Forest Ecosystems, as the fence will also protect forest on DHHL lands. By late 2005, the lower boundary fence of the Nakula tract (between Waiopae and Pahih gulches) was constructed, and funds for additional sections had been encumbered.

Other comments addressed the region's natural and cultural resources, as well as general conservation issues that Hawaii faces statewide.

NARS AND FOREST RESERVE DESIGNATIONS

Issue: Some individuals and groups opposed the NARS proposal and recommended continuation of multiple use management for hunting and/or hiking.

Response: NAR rules allow hiking, nature study in group sizes of ten or less, as well as hunting pursuant to the rules of the Department, except where restricted pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules §13-209. DOFAW is in the process of revising rules for hunting. Designating this area a NAR would not automatically remove the area from a hunting unit, however the Management Policies of the NARS state "In Reserves, strategies to reduce populations of non-native animals to the lowest possible level will be employed." This is consistent with the goal of the fencing project. The planned ungulate removal will effectively remove this area from game mammal hunting, although game bird hunting remains an option.

Issue: Some were concerned that NARS is a type of special interest group, or private entity.

Response: Both the Forest Reserves System and the Natural Area Reserves System are public programs within the State Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

Issue: A few opposed the proposed NAR because the Forest Reserve System can also manage the area with native resource protection as the highest priority in a given area, but with less restrictions for public use. Some testimony suggested NARS give the Division's Forestry Section funds to manage resources instead of transferring land.

Response: DOFAW programs often share funding and staff effort between programs. Indeed, both NARS and the Forest Reserves System are committed to completing the

fencing project, and conservation activities occur on both types of lands. DOFAW supports the NAR proposal as the area contains natural and geological features that are consistent with the goals and objectives of the NARS. DOFAW does not agree that the proposed NAR will greatly impact public use. Forest Reserve Administrative Rules are generally less restrictive than NAR rules for certain activities such as camping or collecting forest products, however both permit access for hiking and hunting pursuant to the department's rules. Camping is not permitted in the subject portion of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve. Public trails can be constructed in both NARS and Forest Reserves.

Issue: Some testified that little or no management or maintenance actions are currently conducted in existing NARS (such as fence maintenance), and questioned why new areas should be added to the System.

Response: DOFAW agrees that management of existing Reserves is important, which is why the Maui NARS has an active management program including non-native animal and plant control, restoration and habitat enhancement, monitoring/research, and public education. Staff maintain fences regularly. DOFAW's annual legislative reports contain more detailed information on the management accomplishments in NARS.

Adding additional areas that have extraordinary biological or geological resources as Reserves is required to fulfill the NARS statute to represent and protect Hawaii's unique natural communities. The State Legislature has passed multiple Resolutions and Acts to promote expanding and adequately funding the NARS. In some cases, designating new NARS may facilitate existing management and justify additional effort done by NARS staff.

Issue: Many supported the NARS in general for providing a high level of protection for native natural areas. NAR designation would also aid management of the adjacent National Park, and the watershed partnership. Some also testified that the Division's NARS Section would help manage the area and remove threats to allow restoration, representing a serious commitment by DOFAW to provide maximum protection to this area. Some commended Maui NARS staff as hardworking and dedicated.

Response: Studies have demonstrated that restoration of the forest of this area is a priority to prevent the extinction of several native Hawaiian species, including rare native birds. Enhancing the survival of these plants and wildlife will allow current and future generations to enjoy them.

Issue: Some individuals stated that the Forest Reserves System is underfunded, has not done enough active management, or contributed to the degradation of the land by managing the area for game.

Response: DOFAW continues to seek additional funds to continue management of both NARS and Forest Reserves. The Forest Reserve System provides recreational and hunting opportunities; aesthetical benefits; watershed restoration; native, threatened, and endangered species habitat protection and management; cultural resources; and fire protection among many other things. The restoration project is an example of active conservation management by DOFAW in this area.

PUBLIC HEARING AND DESIGNATION PROCESS

Issue: One individual was concerned that DLNR staff did not address concerns of the public or present relevant and educational information, and invited unnecessary opposition to this proposal during the hearing.

Response: DLNR staff provided a public informational session prior to the proposal, and recognizes that increasing conservation education is important.

Issue: A few individuals stated that an environmental impact statement is a legal requirement for this proposed transfer of land.

Response: The DOFAW analysis below entitled "Chapter 343- Environmental Assessment" explains why this transfer of land does not require an environmental assessment or impact statement.

Issue: One individual stated that the Koa Forest Protection and Restoration Project's Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was illegal.

Response: No challenges were made during the challenge period for the Environmental Assessment (EA) in 2004, and no letters of opposition to this project were received during Chapter 343 compliance efforts. The final EA, which is posted online, contains justification of the FONSI as the project will be beneficial to the environment.

Issue: One individual stated that a high proportion of the public hearing attendants were local, and that nearly all were in opposition to the NAR proposal, and accused the state of not listening to testimony and following its own agenda.

Response: A majority of testimony received by DLNR supported NAR designation of the subject lands. Further, much of the opposing testimony appeared to include an assumption that NAR designation would automatically close the subject area to the public, which is inaccurate.

Issue: One individual testified that the BLNR meeting should occur on Maui to allow people to directly speak to members on this issue.

Response: Allowing public to speak direction to BLNR is preferable, however each meeting has different agenda items that deal with issues statewide.

ACCESS

Issue: Many who submitted testimony opposing the proposed NAR designation argued that such designation would restrict access to the subject area, or close it altogether. To some, public access is of highest importance for hunting, hiking, as well as reaffirming cultural and spiritual ties to the area, and passing those values to the next generation. This is especially important as population grows on Maui. Some felt that rather than proceeding with a NAR designation, the Forestry program should work with Na Ala Hele to provide additional trails and cabins.

Response: NAR rules allow hiking, nature study in group sizes of ten or less, as well as hunting pursuant to the rules of the Department, subject to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Ch. 13-209. Other types of activities are allowed for users who have obtained a permit. Providing public access to both the Forest Reserve and the proposed NAR would benefit hikers, hunters, and other forest users. DOFAW is actively pursuing options for providing public access and expanded recreational opportunities in this region. Options include

reestablishing an access agreement through DHHL areas to the east, or negotiating public access through leased land to the south of the Reserve.

Currently, this section of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve has not been accessible to the general public since 1994. There is no road or developed foot trail to the area except through DHHL which is not open for public use. Access routes through adjacent lands are by permission only and are not available to the general public.

Issue: A few individuals said that the State should not spend money on NAR designation and fencing projects, and instead use funds to stop school furloughs or provide access to the area.

Response: If the area is designated a NAR, finding access to this area will remain an important initiative. Designating the NAR will does not prevent or reduce DOFAW's ability or initiative to find access to this area.

Projects that preserve natural areas and cultural resources are central to the Division's mission and result in many worthwhile benefits such as replenishing groundwater and reducing erosion into coral reefs.

Issue: Many provided testimony stating that there are large tracts of public lands already set aside for hunting, biking, and hiking; and that a remote NAR will not have impact on those human-oriented activities. Rather, NAR designation just places greater importance on the protection of native natural resources.

Response: DOFAW agrees that NAR designation does not change access for hikers in small groups and will likely have little impact this activity.

HUNTING/ANIMAL REMOVAL

Issue: Some opposing testimony cited that NAR designation would close the subject area to hunting, result in a perimeter fence, and result in the removal of all ungulates. Others spoke directly in opposition to the proposed Kahikinui Koa Forest Protection and Restoration project. Issues raised included: People need game animals to survive, perpetuate a cultural practice, and keep people out of trouble, Maui doesn't have enough game, there is a repeated trend towards fewer hunting areas, and that eradication is slaughter.

Response: The greatest immediate threat to the native wildlife, forests, and groundwater recharge services is continued grazing and trampling by feral goats, cattle, deer and pigs. The management planned for this area will eventually remove game mammals, although bird hunting may still be an option.

The Environmental Assessment for the restoration project addressed hunting/animal removal:

Many areas on the slopes of Haleakala are used for hunting, an activity that provides food, recreation, and social interaction for many residents. It is also important to point out that hunters and hunting groups not only support but often actively participate in fencing, ungulate control or eradication and reforestation activities in the Kahikinui area. Discussions with local hunters indicate that because of the difficulty of access, relatively little hunting occurs in the subject area itself of the

fencing project, although areas directly adjacent (e.g. the LIFE-leased area of DHHL near the 7,000 ft elevation) are hunted regularly. The management and restoration of those lands are guided by the 1995 Kahikinui Forest Reserve Community Management Conceptual Plan that seeks to eliminate feral ungulates to enhance forest restoration. The plan is implemented in part by the Kahikinui Game and Land Management Ohana (KGLMO) to assist in ungulate removal. Nevertheless, it appears that the project will not have a substantial adverse impact on hunting, though it may slightly reduce the amount of game in areas makai of the enclosure by restricting movement of animals from upper elevations. Ultimately, the collective habitat restoration and feral ungulate management programs on the various properties at high elevations in leeward Haleakala will cause a substantial reduction in game, but considerable hunting opportunities will continue to exist. The Draft EA has been distributed to Kahikinui Game and Land Management Ohana for their comments.

Many of the hunting areas cited in the section above are private or restricted access areas not under DOFAW jurisdiction. DOFAW agrees that identifying and establishing new public hunting units is important, either to other more accessible areas in the region or to the areas in Kahikinui Forest Reserve that will remain unfenced. At the same time, protecting remaining native forests and groundwater recharge areas is also important, especially in areas that contain irreplaceable species and cultural values.

Issue: Instead of fences that may fail, and completely remove animals, some requested DOFAW control animals with public hunting, or alternatively construct very small enclosures around individual plants.

Response: DOFAW has attempted to control animals with public hunting in the area for over 80 years, which has not proven sufficient protection for the native forest. Small enclosures around individual plants would not fulfill the purpose of the fences to allow koa and other native plants to regrow in degraded areas. While rare plants may be protected, there would be continued loss of habitat for wildlife that depend on a healthy forest. Besides limiting restoration, small enclosures would also have little effect on topsoil loss and groundwater recharge.

Inside fenced areas, DOFAW has ungulate removal policies involving public hunting as an initial tool for animal reduction for a certain time period, followed by staff control if necessary. Along those lines, other testifiers stated that it would be beneficial if Maui hunters and workers were used to remove animals and build fences, respectively.

Issue: Some testified that this was the only Forest Reserve on Maui left for public hunting, or the only good or decent goat hunting area left, and that many of the surrounding landowners hunt there.

Response: NAR designation will not automatically remove this remote 1,500-acre area from a hunting unit. However, as mentioned above, there are likely to be reduced hunting opportunities in the future after planned fencing and animal removal work. Currently, there are approximately 81,000 acres of DOFAW-managed hunting units on Maui, with approximately 66,000 acres on Haleakala alone. Goats are hunted primarily in the leeward sections of hunting units on Haleakala. DOFAW manages approximately 14,000 acres of

leeward Haleakala hunting units, although access is limited to many of those units, including the subject area of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve. Thus, there are approximately 5,000 acres of relatively easily accessible lands open to pursue goats on Haleakala.

Issue: Some stated that ungulates are good for the native ecosystems of the area, as they keep the invasive grasses down which reduces fire load. If grasses are left ungrazed, they will crowd out rose apple and guava trees that have dense roots that contain the soil.

Another individual indicated that this is a natural area for ungulates.

Response: Grazing animals like deer, cattle, and goats are not native to Hawaii and were introduced by Europeans. In the current unfenced state, there are large areas covered with invasive grass. Specific studies have not been conducted to confirm or deny the effect of ungulates on invasive grass fuel loads in this area. Ungulates do trample, uproot, and eat native forest plants, especially koa. Programs for weed control and fuel management control are proposed as part of the restoration project.

Issue: Some individuals, who identified themselves as hunters, supported the NAR proposal and increased conservation management. They suggested that this area was more important for the koa forest, endangered species, and perpetuation of cultural ties to the area that the forests provide. They testified that the State controls a large amount of areage in the region appropriate for sustained yield hunting, but that Leeward Maui's last significant stand of koa forest is not one of those places.

Response: A balanced management strategy is needed to find both appropriate hunting areas while in other areas protect priority fragile or rare native ecosystems that still exist.

Issue: One individual requested that the DLNR pursue establishment of public access through DLNR leased lands directly south of the subject lands.

Response: NAR designation will not affect the status of surrounding leased lands. DOFAW is considering improving public access as a separate initiative.

Issue: Some testified that the area is landlocked, and that only those with a special connection with DHHL or landowners can hunt, so very few people actually hunt there. Some said that even with regular hunting with public access, there would be abundant populations of goats, pigs, cattle and deer.

Response: The area is very remote. As a result, while DOFAW does not maintain check stations or other means to monitor hunting or other activity in the area, staff believes that very few members of the general public can presently access and hunt in the subject lands.

Issue: Many testified that the proposed 1,500 acre NAR is not large, and not going to greatly impact the hunting community, while continued degradation from ungulates will be a irreplaceable loss to the remaining native ecosystems. Other testified that extinction of these resources is a loss forever, whereas there will always be goats and deer to hunt.

Response: The NARS' statutory goal is to protect irreplaceable native ecosystems and geological features.

Issue: One individual stated that the hunting lobby has disproportionate amounts of power in Hawaii, and that subsistence hunting deserves scrutiny as the ancient Hawaiians found it more cost-effective to keep animals in pens than hunt in the forest. Another individual stated that DOFAW staff research shows that the State does not currently have enough managed

land to protect native resources and hunters do not need all the land currently available for subsistence hunting.

Response: DOFAW is pursuing both additional hunting areas as well as expanded management for native ecosystems.

Issue: Some testified that the area will be fenced regardless of whether it is given NAR status.

Response: The restoration project was begun before the subject proposal was pursued and is its own DOFAW initiative.

Issue: Many testified regarding ongoing damage that ungulates cause to the remnant native ecosystems of this area, which was once a lush forest but now contains aging giant koa and ohia trees with no understory. They believe that pigs hurt watersheds, increase erosion, create water pockets which are used by breeding mosquitoes and spread avian malaria and dengue. Some were concerned that destruction caused by pigs would lose topsoil and water recharge so food could not be grown, and the south shore reefs would be damaged by runoff. Some mentioned that goats are destructive – with fenced National Park areas having native shrublands while unfenced areas are dry, grassy “wastelands.”

Response: Ungulate removal may dramatically revive a degraded forest. This has been demonstrated in many other places in Hawaii.

NATURAL RESOURCES – Native Species/Ecosystem Status

Issue: Some testified that this area does not contain any forests, or is duplicative of areas in the National Park.

Response: HRS Chapter 195 specifically allows for the preservation of areas “as relatively unmodified as possible,” and “as natural a condition as practicable.” Given that the proposed NAR contains the best remnant of a unique ecosystem on Maui, some level of degradation can be accepted. All lands within the NAR System can be said to be altered from their natural condition to some degree; the proposed NAR is no more degraded than many other Reserves. Areas to the east in the National Park do not have the same habitat quality.

Issue: Many testified that this area is excellent habitat for many endangered bird species, according to the Recovery Plan for Endangered Hawaiian Forest Birds. Maui Parrotbill, Alauahio and Akohekohe could be reintroduced to a restored area. Some were concerned that all endangered Maui forest birds live in one place in Windward Haleakala. It is urgent to expand their habitat to protect from extinction. NAR designation was cited as a way to help the forest birds and amplify the National Park’s efforts to protect birds.

Response: The importance of this high elevation area to forest bird protection was a consideration of the NAR proposal. NARS have protected the remaining habitat for these birds in Hanawi NAR for over a decade.

Issue: Many highlighted the uniqueness of the types of forests in this area, especially leeward koa forest. They supported the transfer to NARS as a way to protect these forest resources, endangered plants and a diversity of invertebrates. One individual mentioned that this area lacks many shade adapted forest weeds and non-native mosquitoes. This and the dominance of quick growing canopy species such as koa could create dramatic forest recovery not only for plants but also for rare birds. Many testifiers expressed a sense of

urgency as ecosystem degradation continues due to intense ungulate pressure, and chances to protect the remaining forest diminish.

Response: Most of the native habitats in the proposed reserve have been degraded to some degree; primarily by grazing animals such as cattle and goats. Excellent examples of native vegetation persist at higher elevations and on the walls of canyons too steep for ungulates to access. While the often severe alteration of natural conditions in some areas might be seen as a reason to preclude NAR designation for Nakula, the unique nature of this ecosystem, and the potential for recovery make it desirable for inclusion.

NATURAL RESOURCES – Watershed

Issue: Many supported the proposed NAR as a way to improve the watershed, if there was protection of the remaining forest and/or outplanting of koa. The NAR could add to the vision of the existing Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership, some said. Concerns included the scarcity of water in Kahikinui, and ungulate degradation to the Nakula aquifer that has a sustainable yield of 7 mgd. Others said this area was not an important watershed, and has no rain. An individual questioned the ability of koa to increase rain.

Response: The ancient Hawaiian proverb “*Hahai no ka ua i ka ulua au* - Rain always follows the forest” demonstrates an understanding of the importance of forests for water recharge. This was later echoed by Ralph Hosmer, Hawaii’s first territorial forester, who stated, “In a word, in Hawaii the most valuable product of the forest is water, rather than wood. It follows that the conservation of its watersheds by keeping them permanently clothed with protection forests, is there the chief duty of the forester.” Hawaii’s forests capture rain, clouds, and fog, which drips into groundwater, replenishing water supplies for drinking, agriculture, and other uses. The forests also cover and stabilize the soil, reducing erosion. These forests protect the health of reefs and beaches, clean and cool the air, and defend against flood and drought. DOFAW supports restoring watershed function in this region as active members of the Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership, supported in part by DOFAW’s Watershed Partnerships Program.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Issue: Some opposed the proposed NAR because it would close access, preventing their ability to perpetuate cultural practices, and rob cultural identity from such users.

Response: NAR designation is not expected to impact the access situation, especially for small groups of visitors. Both NARS and Forest Reserves allow cultural and subsistence activities for users that have obtained a permit.

Issue: A few individuals testified that koa is a precious cultural resource, used for tools, transportation, and weapons. They stated that koa must be preserved and honored because it represents the people, a way of life and a wood that has become synonymous with Hawaiian culture. This was a concern as such a small percentage of forested land – 5% - is left in Leeward Haleakala, and current and future generations may lose this cultural connection if all the koa are removed by ungulates.

Response: DOFAW recognizes the importance of koa and associated forest areas as a cultural resource.

Issue: One individual stated that there are historic canoes in a cave in the subject area that should not be disturbed.

Response: DOFAW invites additional information on the cultural resources in this area. The proposed transfer of land is not likely to have a detrimental effect on these resources. The Kahikinui Koa Forest Restoration Project has conducted cultural and archeological surveys of this area and will enhance the cultural resources that the native forests provide. DOFAW will notify the State Historic Preservation Division and cease work in the vicinity immediately in case a previously undetected lava tube is breached during fence construction.

Issue: Many supported the proposed NAR because the area is ceded land, set aside by the Hawaiian sovereign because of its importance to the Hawaiian people, and deserves the strongest protection.

Response: Whether Forest Reserve or NAR, DOFAW recognizes the importance of this area to native Hawaiians.

GENERAL CONSERVATION ISSUES

Issue: Many testified in support of the NAR as a way to address Hawaii's high extinction rate, and that climate change may worsen the situation. One individual felt it a moral obligation to protect habitat and species in need of help. Others stated that native forests provide artistic and spiritual inspiration.

Response: A large proportion of the recently extinct and endangered species in this nation are Hawaiian. Part of DOFAW's mission is to sustain remaining native species for current and future generations.

Issue: An individual stated that All Terrain Vehicle hunting is destructive and should be forbidden.

Response: Both NAR and Forest Reserve rules prohibit operation of a motor vehicle on areas not designated for that purpose.

Issue: Some recommended DLNR staff develop a regional plan for state lands on the south slope of Haleakala to provide for other public uses as well. Conservation and State organizations can find ways to work with the hunting and conservation communities and find solutions that work for most.

Response: DOFAW is working with regional entities such as the watershed partnership as well as individual landowners to plan and develop projects for conservation as well as recreation and hunting access in this region.

CONCLUSION

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) recommends this area to fulfill the NARS' mission to preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the natural flora and fauna, as well as geological sites, of Hawaii. Designation of this area as a NAR will add representative samples of the natural communities found on the leeward slope of Haleakala to the System. The majority of these are globally imperiled, and none are well represented within the Statewide NAR system. The area contains a significant portion of the remaining koa forest of Leeward

Haleakala including many species of endangered plants and animals. These unique resources are rapidly disappearing due to threats from invasive species, especially ungulates.

DOFAW recommends continuing to pursue opportunities for public access to this area to benefit hikers, hunters, and other forest users.

CHAPTER 343 – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This action before the Board represents a transfer in management jurisdiction and does not constitute a use of State lands or funds, and therefore, this action is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 343, HRS, relating to environmental impact statements. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife shall be responsible for compliance with Chapter 343, HRS, as amended for NARS program activities on the land that are not otherwise included in existing environmental compliance documents for that parcel, such as the existing EA for the Kahikinui Koa Forest Protection and Restoration Project. Pursuant to HAR § 11-200-8, foreseeable uses of the State lands by the NARS program fall under Exemption Class 1 of the “Exemption List for the Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the Department of Land and Natural Resources,” reviewed and concurred upon by the Environmental Council on June 12, 2008 including “operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion or change of use beyond that previously existing.”

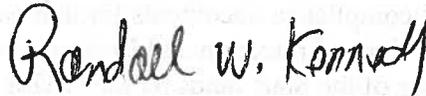
RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Board:

- 1) Accept the Hearing Master’s Report (Attachment 2).
- 2) Approve of and recommend to the Governor the issuance of an executive order withdrawing approximately 1,500 acres, to be determined by survey and as shown in Attachment 1, from of Governor’s Proclamation dated December 22, 1928 establishing the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, at Nakula and Kahikinui, Hana, Maui, TMK (2) 1-8-001:por. 6 & (2) 1-8-001:009, and further subject to the following:
 - a. The standard terms and conditions of the most current executive order form, as may be amended from time to time;
 - b. Disapproval by the Legislature by two-thirds vote of either the House of Representatives or the Senate or by a majority vote by both in any regular or special session next following the date of the setting aside;
 - c. Review and approval by the Department of the Attorney General; and
 - d. Such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.
- 3) Approve of and recommend to the Governor the issuance of an executive order setting aside approximately 1,500 acres, to be determined by survey and as shown in Attachment 1, at Nakula and Kahikinui, Hana, Maui, TMK (2) 1-8-001:por. 6 & (2) 1-8-001:009, to the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, for the Nakula Natural Area Reserve, under the

terms and conditions cited above, which are by reference incorporated herein and subject further to the following:

- a. The standard terms and conditions of the most current executive order form, as may be amended from time to time;
- b. Disapproval by the Legislature by two-thirds vote of either the House of Representatives or the Senate or by a majority vote by both in any regular or special session next following the date of the setting aside;
- c. Review and approval by the Department of the Attorney General; and
- d. Such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.

Respectfully Submitted,



for PAUL J. CONRY, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



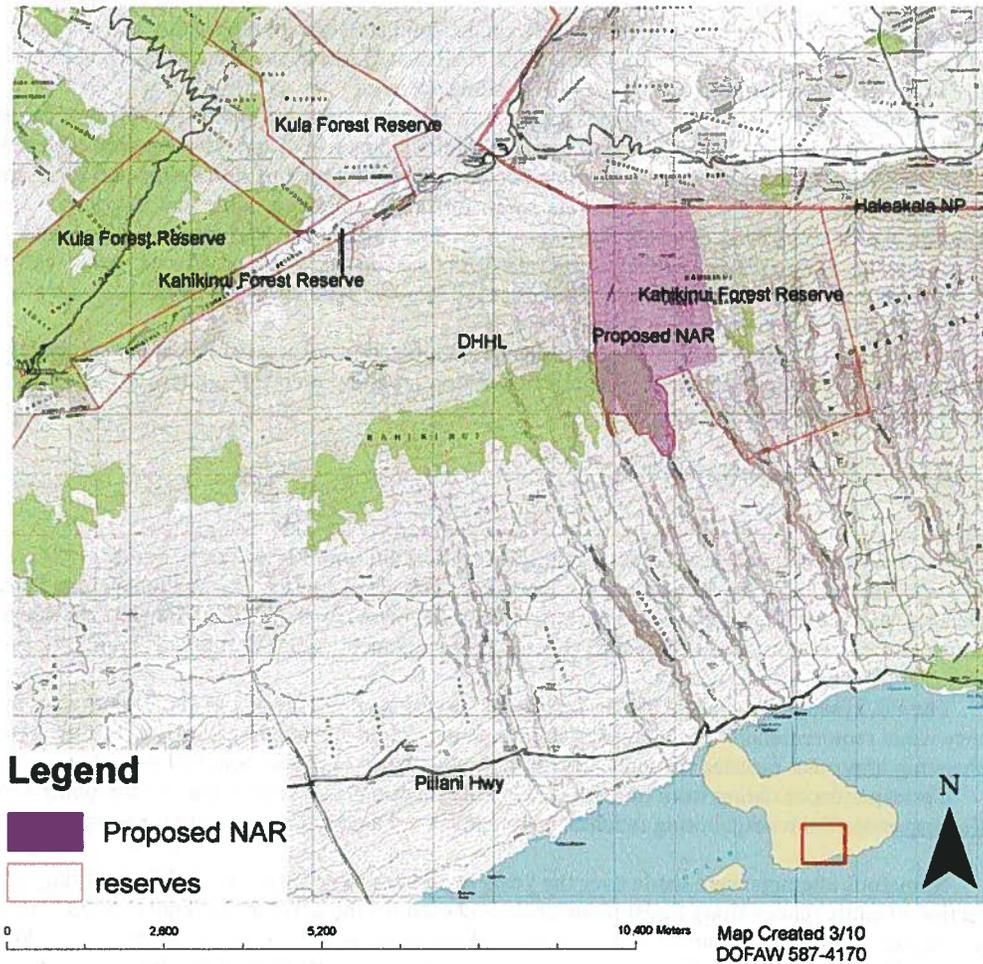
LAURA H. THIELEN, Chairperson

Attachments

Attachment 1: Map and Proposal for the Nakula Natural Area Reserve



Proposed NAR
to be withdrawn from
Kahikinui Forest Reserve



PROPOSAL FOR THE NAKULA NATURAL AREA RESERVE

August 2010

I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A portion of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve (FR), on the island of Maui, is proposed for inclusion in the State of Hawai'i Natural Area Reserve System (NARS). Designation of the area as the Nakula NAR will protect unique natural features and endangered species found there and have a positive effect on other conservation efforts in the region. The NARS Commission recommended this proposal on January 20, 2010, after approval of the proposal by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW).

II INTRODUCTION (General)

DLNR proposes that a portion of the Kahikinui FR, on the southern slope of Haleakala, become part of the State of Hawai'i Natural Area Reserves System. This NAR would include an area of approximately 1,500 acres in the Nakula region on the south slope of Haleakala volcano.

This proposed Nakula NAR contains a sampling of native plant communities typical of the upland slopes of leeward Haleakala. The majority of these are globally imperiled, and none are well represented within the Statewide NAR system. Special protection is needed for a tract of *Koa* dominated forest that occupies the proposed NAR. Leeward Haleakala's *Koa* forest is a unique resource that is rapidly disappearing, and establishment of a Nakula NAR will protect a significant portion of what remains.

20 species of rare plants have been reported from the proposed NAR or adjacent lands with similar habitat; 8 of these are listed as endangered. The proposed Reserve is adjacent to Federally designated Critical Habitat areas that have similar habitat types.

At present, the area is habitat for two endangered birds, the endangered Hawaiian bat, and the endangered moth *Manduca blackburni*. A forest restoration program intended to improve habitat for other rare forest birds and plants is ongoing.

III BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Past Land Use

The proposed NAR is part of a larger tract established as the Kahikinui FR on December 22, 1928. The original Kahikinui FR included *mauka* lands at Kahikinui, Nakula, Kaupo, Nu'u, Wailaulau, and Papa'anui. These lands totaled approximately 16,013 acres that are now owned by the State of Hawai'i, private entities and the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL). Management responsibility was originally given to the Territorial Department of Forestry.

The FR System was created by the Territorial Government of Hawai'i in 1903 to provide the necessary water requirements for lowland agriculture demands and surrounding communities by protecting and enhancing important forested *mauka* lands for their abundance of public benefits and values.

Correspondence dating from this time repeatedly mentions that large herds of feral goats, as well as cattle trespassing from neighboring ranches, were considered a critical threat to the survival of this forest.

Numerous attempts were made over the years to address these issues, typically involving construction of cattle fences along forest boundaries, and establishing accesses for goat hunters. However success was very limited and goats and cattle in the Nakula region were largely left uncontrolled due to the remoteness of the location and limited resources available, coupled with the fact that there are no important water resources harvested there as found elsewhere in other FR's (i.e. ground or surface harvested water) like in E. Maui. Some level of goat control was achieved through public hunting; primarily in the western portion of the Forest Reserve via a road and trail that started near the lower Skyline Trail above Polipoli State Park and ended at Waiopai Gulch 3.5 miles away. Access was managed and maintained by DOFAW through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) that established the Kahikinui Game Management Area. In 1984, 8,747 acres of DHHL land was withdrawn from the Forest Reserve in accordance with Attorney General opinion No. 75-3, dated March 21, 1975.

In 1994, the DHHL rescinded its access and management agreement with DOFAW. While the intent of this action was to allow DHHL to manage forest lands for the benefit of settlers on Hawaiian Homelands, it has restricted DOFAW's ability to manage State lands at Nakula since the only feasible

hunter access to Nakula involves crossing DHHL lands by jeep and foot trail. After the withdrawal, this access was closed to the general public. Nakula was landlocked, and public hunting has essentially ceased again leaving goats and other feral animals in the Nakula region to be largely left uncontrolled.

Present Land Use

The Nakula portion of the Kahikinui FR is presently managed by the DOFAW. It is available for daily public hunting of feral pigs and goats as part of hunting unit C. DOFAW does not maintain a hunter check station for this area, nor are harvest reports kept. There is no road or developed foot trail to the area except through DHHL which is not open for public use. With permission, it can be accessed through the DHHL lands to the east; or through lands owned/leased by Haleakala Ranch to the south. These accesses are not available to the general public. The upper portion of Nakula cannot be reached from the Haleakala National Park due to "stay on trail" rules. No trails from the park lead to the Kahikinui FR.

Cultural/Recreational Uses

An archaeological reconnaissance study and cultural practices assessment of the area was recently conducted. The survey primarily covered the area around the parcel perimeter, and no historic sites were recorded there. The report also states that due to the steep terrain and high elevation in the area, it would be "expected to contain few sites, especially given the rugged topography of the area. If present, sites would include rock shelters, cairns, quarry sites, petroglyphs, ridge trails or other temporary-use sites." No ongoing cultural practices were identified.

Hunting for pigs and goats is presently allowed in the DOFAW administered portion of the Kahikinui FR. The area is extremely remote, and there is no public access across the private and leased lands that surround it. DOFAW does not maintain check stations or other means to monitor hunting or other activity in the area.

The region continues to have an abundance of game animals, primarily goats as was noted from the 1920's. Hunters who have permission to use the surrounding lands are easily able to take their "bag limit" long before reaching the Nakula tract; the core of this remote area rarely, if ever, sees hunters. There are no developed trails or roads to the area; it can only be traversed by following rugged cross-country routes.

Conservation History

Until recently, very little conservation activity had taken place at Nakula. The need for forest protection was obvious when FR designation occurred 1928. Goat and cattle control were sporadically undertaken when resources became available.

During the 1980's, a strategic fence intended to protect rare plants in a very small portion of Manawainui gulch (on DHHL lands adjacent to Nakula) was installed, but this is not regularly maintained.

After the Kahikinui lands reverted to DHHL, community interest in forest restoration began to increase. In 1995, the Kahikinui Forest Partnership Working Group submitted a community forest management plan to the DHHL. This group later took the name Living Indigenous Forest Ecosystems (LIFE) and assumed a lease over a portion of the DHHL owned forest lands. Their goal is to involve settlers on Hawaiian Homelands with the stewardship of the Kahikinui Forest. One ongoing LIFE project involves construction of a fence to protect the most intact forested area on DHHL lands. This project is adjacent to the proposed Nakula NAR.

In 2003, ten land owners, including the State of Hawai'i, signed a memorandum of understanding for the Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership. The intent of the partnership is to support restoration of native ecosystems [primarily *Koa* forests] on 43,000 acres of leeward Haleakala above 3500' elevation, creating framework for regional cooperation and fund raising.

In 2004, DOFAW began work on an ungulate proof fence intended to enclose a portion of the Nakula tract. The purpose of the fence is to exclude ungulates, allowing regrowth of *Koa* forest, and subsequent reintroduction of endangered forest birds to an improved habitat on leeward Haleakala. The project is being undertaken in cooperation with DHHL and LIFE, as the fence will protect forest on their lands as well. By late 2005, the lower boundary fence of the Nakula tract (between Waiopae and Pahihi gulches) had been completed, and funds for additional sections had been encumbered. Additional units and alignments are being considered, which if chosen will require a public comment process.

The NARS Commission advises the governor and the department about preservation of natural resources in Hawai'i, and has the statutory duty under HRS § 195-7 to "Conduct studies of areas for

possible inclusion within the reserves system; Recommend to the governor and the department areas suitable for inclusion within the reserves system.” To fulfill these duties, the Commission has studied, discussed, and prioritized areas that would be appropriate to include into the NARS. In 2005, this area was prioritized, and a proposal was presented to the Maui Branch of DOFAW in 2007. In 2008, the Enhancement Initiative of the NARS Commission again prioritized this area as “biologically important.” In 2009, a NAR proposal that contained the entire FR, except for 900 acres of the southeast portion, was discussed with staff from the Maui and Administration branches of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and a NARS Commissioner. That meeting discussed the public access and current fencing situation, potential recreational values, and highlighted the imperiled ecosystem and species. There was also discussion and positions taken about various options for the original NAR proposal, no NAR proposal, and a proposal that included all of Kahikinui FR.

The NARS Commission Enhancement Subcommittee asked that further discussions with Maui Branch yield management recommendations for the area. In May 2009, the Maui Branch met and consensus was made on a revised and smaller NAR proposal, which did not include the eastern portion of the FR. Additionally, the branch agreed that public access should also continue to be pursued, especially for hunters. DOFAW recommended that the area be withdrawn from the Forest Reserve and set aside as a Natural Area Reserve on December 1, 2009.

Previous Studies

A biological survey was done as part of an Environmental Assessment. Medeiros, et al. (1986) surveyed Nakula as part of a larger survey of South Haleakala’s native vegetation. Over the course of his career, Robert Hobby, retired Maui Forester, often spent time in the area and documented numerous rare plants.

No inventory of the area specifically proposed for NAR designation has been conducted.

IV JUSTIFICATION (Specifics)

Scientific Value

The primary reason for designation of the Nakula NAR is to protect an example of the leeward Haleakala *Koa* forest. This forest once covered an estimated 40,000 acres, extending from Makawao to Kaupo. It has been so badly impacted by human activities (primarily logging and cattle ranching) that it has been reduced to perhaps 5% of its’ original range, and even this has been severely degraded. Active protection is necessary to prevent this last remnant of forest from disappearing.

Leeward *Koa* forests on slopes of the larger Hawaiian volcanoes are unique in that the forest depends largely on precipitation and fog drip from afternoon clouds created by convection and diurnal heating. They differ markedly from *Koa* forest that occurs on the windward slopes of the islands (an example is present at Hanawi NAR). Those forests are affected by the trade winds, and are much wetter, with a different suite of associated species.

Another important natural attribute of the proposed Nakula NAR are the numerous small gullies that incise the mountain slope. These sheltered gulches provide moist, shady habitat for several rare plant species in what is otherwise a harsh, dry environment. The steep walls of the gulches have provided refuges in which the plants have been saved from goat browsing till now, but may not last for much longer.

The dramatic elevation change across the proposed reserve (5600 vertical feet in 2½ miles), and the corresponding change in moisture regimes has compressed several native habitats (from alpine summit desert to the moist forest of the afternoon fog belt) into a relatively small area. In addition to allowing for great species diversity in a compact area, the Reserve has potential to serve as a natural transect for studying such things as changes in vegetation in response to climate change.

Upland leeward *Koa* forest occurs on Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea and Hualalai volcanoes on the island of Hawai’i. Only a few examples are protected, primarily in Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park, Manuka NAR and Kipahoe NAR. Nakula has a much older geologic substrate than these Big Island locations, providing opportunities to compare patterns of plant succession and soil development.

The proposed Nakula NAR supports several different native habitats and a variety of native plant species. Numerous rare plant species are known from the area and surrounding lands. Common native forest birds inhabit the area; two endangered bird species and the Hawaiian bat are also present. The area has been proposed as a reintroduction site for the endangered Maui Parrotbill, Maui ‘*Alauahio*, and ‘*Akohekohe*. The Revised Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Forest Birds for the Maui Parrotbill populations states:

On southern and western exposures of East Maui (Haleakala), a continuous “lei” or ring of suitable forest should be reconnected around the mountain, especially at upper elevations where mosquitoes are rare. Although the current parrotbill population is restricted to the wet ohia forest of windward East Maui, this may represent a contraction of range into marginal habitat following widespread habitat loss and degradation (Simon et al. 1998). Parrotbills were once found throughout leeward areas and are thought to prefer koa for foraging (Perkins, 1903). Habitat restoration and reestablishment of a population on the leeward or western exposures of East Maui is needed to help reduce extinction risk, and to increase the ecological breadth of the species to help buffer against climatic fluctuations. The restoration of koa to these montane regions is a key element of habitat restoration in these areas.

A small amount of unprotected, remnant mesic koa forest currently exists on State Forest Reserve and Department of Hawaiian Homelands properties in the Kahikinui region of southern Haleakala. This area holds great potential to provide suitable habitat for the parrotbill. (USFWS, 2006)

The Recovery Plan also states that recovery actions for the *Akohekohe*, including reestablishment of a leeward population, are similar to plans for the Parrotbill (USFWS, 2006). Regarding conservation actions for the Maui *Alauahio*: “ongoing fencing and ungulate control on Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands at Kahikinui will likely benefit the small *alauahio* population there, and in general conservation efforts should also include continued protection and management of wildlife sanctuaries and refuges” (Mitchell, et al. 2006).

Invertebrates in the area are poorly studied, but it is likely to be important habitat for native insects. For example, the mesic *Koa* forest is habitat for native Carabid beetles. Recent surveys of relict *Koa* elsewhere on Haleakala revealed surprising beetle diversity, including new species and rediscoveries of insects thought to be extinct. The *Koa* at Nakula, which has never been inventoried, has a potentially rich beetle fauna as well.

Designation of this area as a NAR will “complete” the protection of representative examples of the natural communities found on the leeward slope of Haleakala. When combined with the nearby Kanaio NAR and Auwahi Preserve (mid-elevation dry and mesic forests), ‘Ahihi-Kina‘u NAR (marine and low elevation xeric habitat) and the Pu‘u O Kali Preserve (lowland dry forest), designation of a Nakula NAR that includes montane and subalpine habitats will create a system of protected areas that encompass the entire range of elevation on leeward Haleakala – from sea to summit.

Representativeness

Most of the native habitats in the proposed reserve have been degraded to some degree; primarily by grazing animals such as cattle and goats. Excellent examples of native vegetation persist at higher elevations and on the walls of canyons too steep for ungulates to access. While the often severe alteration of natural conditions in some areas might be seen as a reason to preclude NAR designation for Nakula, the unique nature of this ecosystem, and the potential for recovery make it desirable for inclusion.

HRS Chapter 195 specifically allows for the preservation of areas “as relatively unmodified as possible”, and “as natural a condition as practicable.” Given that the Nakula tract contains the best remnant of a unique ecosystem as yet unprotected on Maui, some level of degradation can be accepted. All of the lands within the NAR system can be said to be altered from their natural condition to some degree; the Nakula tract is no more degraded than many other Reserves.

There are five native vegetation communities within the proposed Nakula NAR. They include a dry subalpine shrubland, two dry subalpine forest types, and two types of montane mesic forests. All four of the forest communities are considered globally imperiled due to their limited remaining range and severity of threats. The shrubland is considered vulnerable. Protection of the *Koa/Ohi’a Montane Mesic Forest* is the primary reason for creation of the Nakula NAR. While this plant community exists elsewhere, the leeward Haleakala occurrence has a unique mix of associated plant (and invertebrate) species. As such, it is important to preserve this last remaining example of a previously widespread forest.

Above the 1600m elevation is classified as subalpine, with the remainder of the proposed Reserve in the montane mesic zone, except for a small portion of dry cliff in Wailaulau gulch (TNC, 2006). The NARS currently represent very small portions of subalpine (10 acres) and montane mesic (340 acres) habitat on Maui, located on the windward side of Haleakala in Hanawi NAR (Menard, 2008).

Besides the *Koa/Ohi'a* forest, the other natural vegetation communities of Haleakala's leeward uplands are not well represented in the Hawai'i NARS. Similar montane and subalpine habitats are protected in the Manuka and Kipahohoe NARs on Hawai'i, but in limited extent and on very different geologic substrate.

Some Dry Montane and Subalpine shrublands and forests are protected in Haleakala and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Parks. All of these occurrences are threatened by fire, and on the Big Isle, by volcanic activity as well. Tropical dryland forests (especially those at high elevation) are among the most imperiled ecosystems in the world. Establishment of a Nakula NAR would be an important step in preserving what remains of this rapidly vanishing habitat.

Natural Communities and their Status

Plant community classifications follow Gagne and Cuddihy in Wagner et al., 1999.

Between the top of the proposed reserve at 9200' and approximately 8000' *Pukiawe/Ohelo Dry Subalpine Shrubland* predominates, and is relatively intact. A dense *pukiawe* shrubland predominates, interspersed with native grass and fern patches. Feral goats and pigs are present, and have disturbed limited areas.

Between 8000' and 6500', the vegetation has been severely impacted by goats and the mountain has been mostly denuded of native vegetation. However, remnants of '*Ohi'a Subalpine Dry Forest* and *Mamane Subalpine Dry Forest* can still be found in some of the steeper gulches, or in areas where the underlying substrate has resisted erosion.

Below the temperature inversion layer at about 6500' elevation, a *Koa/Ohi'a Montane Mesic Forest* develops. At the upper reaches, this forest is a dry subtype, with *Koa* canopy and an understory of tall '*A'ali'i* shrubs. As moisture increases with decreasing elevation, species diversity and tree size increase, with this community being best expressed between 3500' and 4500' elevation. Most of the rare species listed later in this document would be expected to occur in this habitat. Due to ungulate grazing, the natural forest understory has been largely eliminated and replaced by introduced pasture grasses. However, gulches, cliff faces and other protected areas still contain a diverse assemblage of native ferns and other understory plants.

This portion of the Reserve also contains numerous gulches that provide a unique sheltered microhabitat, as well as springs and seeps that feed intermittent streams.

Below 3500' elevation, moisture decreases, and the vegetation grades into a very degraded remnant of what was once a diverse assemblage of dryland trees; classified loosely as *Olopa Montane Mesic Forest*. This community is found in a very small area at the lower extent of the proposed Reserve; within the canyon of Wailaulau gulch.

Rarity

Three plant species listed as endangered (E) or candidates for listing (C) for have recently been recorded within the boundaries of the proposed Nakula NAR, as well as two Species of Concern (SOC). There are an additional 15 rare plant species recorded from similar habitat in the immediate surrounding area (6 E, 5 C, 4 SOC) that could potentially occur within the proposed NAR, or would be appropriate for reintroduction. See Table 1 in the Appendix for a complete listing of rare plants known from the area.

East of Pahihi gulch falls within unit "H" of Federally designated critical plant habitat (CH) on the island of Maui. It includes critical habitat for the following endangered plants: *Argyroxiphium sandwicense ssp. macrocephalum* (Haleakala silversword), and *Bidens micrantha ssp. kalealaha* (ko'oko'olau).

Critical habitat for numerous other species was designated on the lands immediately adjacent to Nakula (the DHHL lands). The State Forest Reserve was excluded from CH designation to prevent adding additional regulatory burdens to conservation practices on the land, but is still important habitat. The exemption from CH designation implies that the State intends to implement protective management on these lands independent of Federal mandate. NAR designation is consistent with this goal.

In addition to the individual rare species, the *Mesic Montane Koa/Ohi'a* forest ecosystem that is the 'centerpiece' of the proposed NAR is itself rare. Logging, cattle ranching and fire have greatly reduced the extent of this forest type statewide. On Maui, it has been reduced to perhaps 5% of the original range, of which the Nakula tract is a significant portion. This forest type, as well as the dry subalpine *Mamane* and '*Ohi'a* forests at higher elevation, are considered globally imperiled.

The Hawaiian goose or *Nene* has been observed in the area, and the rocky Subalpine uplands are

potential nesting sites for the Hawaiian petrel or 'Ua'u. The Hawaiian hoary bat ('Ope'ape'a) is also a likely resident of the area. All three of these are endangered species.

As stated earlier, the aim of the forest restoration project is restore the *Koa* forest community in order to expand habitat to provide for reintroduction of the endangered Maui parrotbill. Other rare Maui forest birds such as the 'Alauahio and 'Akohekohe may also benefit.

Biological/Ecological Design

The boundaries of the proposed Nakula NAR were drawn to include areas where native canopy still exists, where soil loss and noxious weed invasion are limited, and where restoration efforts would be feasible. Extremely steep and/or highly degraded areas were excluded.

A primary consideration in the design of the Reserve was to capture the dramatic elevation change (5600 vertical feet in 2½ miles), and the corresponding change in moisture regimes (from the moist forest of the afternoon fog belt up to the harsh desert at the summit), that compresses several native habitats into a relatively small area.

A secondary consideration was to capture as much lateral variation along the mountain contour as possible. Geologic or climactic factors seem to be influencing timberline and forest composition across the mountain slope. *Koa* dominated forest is prevalent on the western side of the proposed Reserve, while a dry forest of 'Ohi'a trees persists at high elevations to the east.

Noteworthy geologic features include highly dissected exposures of the Kula volcanic series, mantled with soils derived from ash and cinder deposits. The Pu'u Ali'i cinder cone is a prominent feature located at 8000' elevation.

The numerous gullies and gulches along the heavily dissected mountain slope provide sheltered micro-habitats that allow forest vegetation to 'finger' upslope into the subalpine region. These drainages also hold numerous springs and seeps which may provide habitat for native invertebrates.

From a regional perspective, the proposed Nakula NAR is important because of the contrast it will provide to activities on surrounding lands. A major force driving the Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership is the desire to develop a sustainable commercial *Koa* forestry industry on Maui. Having a protected Natural Area at the core of an area where natural resources are available for industrial and/or indigenous use is in line with sustainable land use model applied world-wide.

Another consideration in the design of this preserve relates to the protection of *Koa* forest on a statewide level. *Koa* is by far the most valuable native tree species in Hawaii. Protecting natural genetic diversity is an important consideration for development of a commercial forest industry.

Koa occurs on most of the major Hawaiian islands. On the larger islands, there are often disjunct populations, with different tree morphology; roughly corresponding to lowland/windward/wet and montane/leeward/mesic subtypes. The second subtype (present at Nakula) generally produces the most valuable timber.

Table 3 in the appendix provides a matrix of the distribution of these *Koa* subtypes state-wide, and lists some of the areas that the *Koa* forest is (or could be) under active management with a mandate for preservation of the ecosystem and genetic diversity. A review of this table shows that establishing a Nakula NAR will fill the last major gap in protection of important areas of *Koa* diversity state-wide.

Location and Size

The proposed Nakula NAR is located on the southern slope of Haleakala on Maui in the Hana District, and includes approximately 1,500 acres (out of 3,700) of land presently within the State's Kahikinui FR. The area is identified as a portion of TMK 2-1-8-1-6 and 2-1-8-1-9. Final survey will determine exact boundaries, attached map contains approximate location and is subject to change.

The NAR boundaries are designed to encompass a wide elevational gradient. The lower elevation portion of the Kahikinui FR (the most makai 900 acres), which is part of what is excluded from this proposal is highly degraded and may be better suited for other uses, such as game management.

Neighboring the proposed reserve to the north (uphill) and is Haleakala National Park. To the west are lands administered by the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL). South and east neighbors are State-owned lands leased for pasture, and that portion of the Kahikinui FR not proposed for NAR designation.

Threats (Human/Biological)

The greatest immediate threat to the proposed Nakula NAR is continued grazing and trampling by feral

ungulates, including goats, cattle, deer and pigs.

Secondary threats include fire, and invasion by non-native weeds, including pasture grasses, as well as trees such as *Bocconia*, and *Grevillea*.

Tertiary threats include the loss of genetic diversity as population of native plants, birds and invertebrates decline.

Present Level of Protection

The proposed NAR lies within the State Conservation District, Resource (R) Sub-zone.

According to Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Title 13, Chapter 5, the objective of the Resource Sub-zone is to "...develop, with proper management, areas to sustain use of the natural resources." Some allowable activities identified for the Resource subzone include national, state, county or private parks; outdoor recreation; commercial forestry; mining and extraction; astronomy facilities, and aquaculture.

However, the R Sub-zone may not be appropriate for this area. The Limited (L) Sub-zone is recommended for areas "...susceptible to floods and soil erosion, lands undergoing major erosion damage requiring corrective action...", and areas with a "general slope of 40 percent or more." The Protective (P) Sub-zone includes lands "necessary for protecting watersheds" and "necessary for preserving natural ecosystems of native plants, fish and wildlife, particularly those which are endangered."

Given the environmentally fragile nature of this area, and the presence of endangered species, a change in Sub-zone to L or P is warranted, particularly if NAR designation takes place.

The area proposed as a NAR is presently within the Forest Reserve System.

Long-term Ecological Viability

Despite being degraded by years of cattle and goat activity, the Nakula forest has great potential for natural regeneration. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that *Koa* forest can rapidly reclaim disturbed areas once grazing animals are removed. Restoration of degraded areas at higher elevations may be problematic, but it should still be possible to restore native vegetative cover to many of the now denuded areas.

If Kahikinui and the other areas adjacent to the Nakula tract are not protected, this area will be difficult to sustain as a natural system. However, the recent interest in restoration of the regional watershed is encouraging. Designating this important core section of Haleakala's leeward forest as a NAR would enhance the ability of the Reserve System to participate and contribute to conservation and restoration actions across the entire watershed.

Environmental Consequences of No Action

The environmental consequences of no action will likely be the continued degradation and eventual loss of this unique remnant of Maui's natural heritage.

Urgency

Degradation of this area by cattle and goats is well documented and has been happening for almost 200 years.

With the recent push for fencing and restoration, it is entirely appropriate that native ecosystem restoration efforts be placed under the purview of the NARS program.

V. MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Threats Requiring Management

As noted earlier, threats to the proposed addition to the proposed Nakula NAR include:

- Grazing and trampling by feral ungulates, including goats, cattle, deer and pigs.
- Invasion by non-native plants, including pasture grasses and non-native weeds.
- Fire.
- Loss of genetic diversity.

Protective management would primarily entail construction of fences (on-going) to exclude feral ungulates from the reserve, and the removal of any animals within the fences.

Weed control would focus primarily on eradicating incipient populations of non-native tree species. Natural regrowth/replanting of *Koa* may provide a natural control for pasture grasses as increased canopy cover may shade them out.

Fire threats could be mitigated by developing fuel breaks or shade belts to slow fire spread, as well as developing infrastructure such as reservoirs and helicopter dip tanks.

Outplanting, predator control and translocation of native wildlife would address the loss of native biodiversity.

Administrative (size, boundaries, access: roads & trails, maps more specific than in introduction, TMKs)
Final survey will determine exact boundaries, attached map contains approximate location and is subject to change. The overall size of the proposed Nakula NAR is approximately 1,517 acres. It includes all of TMK 2-1-8-1-9, and the western portion of TMK 2-1-8-1-6. Maps 1 and 2 in the appendix depict the general location of the proposed NAR, and its' relationship to adjoining properties. This land is under Section 5 (b) of the Hawaii Admission Act.

Approximately 2,200 acres would remain in FR designation. The southernmost part of the FR at a lower elevation has been almost completely denuded of native vegetation. It is also extremely steep and dissected by deep gulches, making fencing or other management difficult if not impossible.

The Nakula NAR would be a rectangle (roughly 2 miles long by 1.3 mile wide), with a triangular protrusion at the south-western corner extending an extra .5 miles. Elevations range from 3,600 to 9,200 feet in elevation. The boundaries are subject to change based on final survey, and are as follows: The western boundary approximately follows the canyon carved by Waiopai stream; a ridge between the two forks of Pahihi stream forms the eastern boundary. The upper boundary is marked by Haleakala National Park's perimeter fence.

The lower boundary of the proposed NAR is more complex. East of Wailaulau canyon, it follows a line at roughly the 5,000' elevation. On the western side the boundary dips downhill to include the triangular area between major forks of Wailaulau. Between Pahihi and Waiopae gulches, this lower boundary is marked by the newly constructed fence between the FR and pasture leased to Haleakala Ranch.

There are no publicly accessible roads or trails accessing the proposed NAR. Foot travel routes typically taken to enter this area contour across the mountain through the Kahikinui FR, or below the National Park boundary fence.

An important component for the success of regional conservation efforts on Leeward Haleakala is public support. While reforestation of the area will receive strong support, there is also a need to address the interests of the hunting public on Maui.

Large scale conservation efforts on Maui such as the recently formed watershed partnerships run the risk of alienating hunters who perceive conservation efforts as encroaching on their interests. This is especially problematic on the south and eastern sides of Haleakala where there is still a significant rural and native Hawaiian population, for whom the ability to harvest game for subsistence is still important.

Conservation in this area is needed presently as no action leads to continued degradation of the forest by feral animals. A larger landscape plan could include future initiatives to protect biologically important areas, and create improved access for hunting and game management in appropriate areas.

VI. PUBLIC OUTREACH

Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals Notified

Federal

Haleakala National Park
US Fish and Wildlife Service

State

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
DLNR, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement
DLNR, Land Division
DLNR, State Historic Preservation District
DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Na Ala Hele Advisory Council
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita - 12th Representative District
Senator J. Kalani English - 6th Senatorial District

County
County of Maui
Planning Department
Maui County Council

Organizations

Aha Kiole Council
Conservation Council for Hawaii
Environment Hawaii, Inc.
Haleakala Ranch
Hawaii Audubon Society
Hawaii Conservation Alliance
Hawaiian Botanical Society
Kahikinui Game and Land Management O'hana
Kahikinui Homesteads Association
Kaupo Wildlife Club
Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership
Maui Invasive Species Committee
Sierra Club, Maui Chapter
Ulupalakua Ranch
Friends of Haleakala National Park
The Nature Conservancy, Maui

As an addition to the legal notification requirements, press releases were sent to statewide and local newspapers, and an informational meeting was offered prior to the hearing. The purpose of the informational meeting was to allow the public opportunity to ask questions, meet DLNR staff, and learn more about the proposal prior to testifying.

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Appendices

Table 1
Rare Plants Recorded From Vicinity of Proposed Nakula NAR

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	CH info	Location Info
<u>Argyroxiphium sandwicense ssp. macrocephalum</u>	'ahinahina, Haleakala silversword	E	B	2
<i>Bidens micrantha</i> ssp. <i>kaleaha</i>	ko'oko'olau	E	B	1
<i>Canavalia pubescens</i>	'awikiwiki	C		2
<i>Clermontia lindseyana</i>	'ohawai	E	B	1
<i>Cyanea arborea</i>	haha	SOC		2
<i>Cyanea obtusa</i>	haha	C		2
<i>Cyrtandra bisserata</i>	ha'iwale	SOC		1
<i>Cyrtandra oxybapha</i>	ha'iwale	C		2
<i>Diellia erecta</i>		E	B	2
<i>Diplazium molokaiense</i>		E	B	1
<i>Geranium multiflorum</i>	nohoanu	E	B	2
<i>Huperzia mannii</i>		E	B	2
<i>Neraudia sericea</i>		E	B	2
<i>Ochrosia haleakalae</i>	holei	C		2
<i>Phyllostegia haliakalae</i>		SOC	B	1
<i>Portulaca villosa</i>		SOC		2
<i>Ranunculus mauiensis</i>	makou	C		2
<i>Schidea diffusa</i> ssp. <i>diffusa</i>		SOC		2
<i>Stenogyne haleakalae</i>		SOC		?
<i>Zanthoxylum hawai'iensis</i>	'a'e	E		2

Federal Status E = Endangered, C = Candidate for Listing, SOC = Species of concern

CH Info Critical plant habitat designated: A = within proposed NAR, B = Adjacent lands with identical habitat

Location info 1 = recently recorded from within proposed NAR, 2 = recently recorded from lands adjacent to proposed NAR with identical habitat; could occur within NAR, ? = possibly extinct, recorded from vicinity of NAR

Table 2

Rare Animals Found in Vicinity of Proposed Nakula NAR

Hawaiian Petrel 'u'a'u, Pterodroma sandwichensis
 Hawaiian Goose, *nene*, Nesochen sandwichensis
 Hawaiian Bat, 'ope'ape'a, Lasiurus semotus cinereus
 Blackburn's Sphinx Moth, Manduca blackburni

Table 3

**Summary of Important Areas / Management Units for
 Protection of Native *Koa* Forest Ecosystems Statewide**

<i>Island / Mountain Mass</i>	<i>Wet/Windward/ Lowland Subtype</i>	<i>Dry/Leeward/ Montane Subtype</i>
Big Island		
Mauna Kea	Laupahoehoe NAR Hakalau NWR	Hakalau NWR
Mauna Loa	Puu Makaala NAR	Hawai'i Volcanoes NP Manuka NAR Kipahoe NAR Kona Hema Preserve Hakalau NWR Kona Unit
Hualalai	?	Pu'u Wa'awa'a FBS
Kilauea	?	Hawai'i Volcanoes NP
Maui		
Haleakala	Hanawi NAR Haleakala NP Waikamoi Preserve	NOT PROTECTED
West Maui	?	Lihau NAR
Molokai	?	?
Lanai	?	?
Oahu		
Koolau mountain	Proposed Poamoho NAR O'ahu Forest NWR	?
Waianae mountain	?	Ka'ala NAR Pahole NAR Honouliuli Preserve
Kauai	Wainiha, Lumaha'i and Limahuli valleys, Na Pali Coast SP	Ku'ia NAR

? = unknown; significant examples of *Koa* forest no longer remain, or *Koa* dominated habitat may never have existed. NAR = Natural Area Reserve, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, NP = National Park, SP = State Park

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

December 1, 2009

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Natural Area Reserves System Commission
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Natural Area Reserves System Commission:

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife has completed its review of the draft proposal for adding the Na Kula section of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve into the Natural Area Reserve System on Maui.

After a thorough review of the proposal, my Division of Forestry and Wildlife staff on Maui recommends approval to the Natural Area Reserve System Commission. They agreed that the proposal contains natural and geological features that are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Natural Area Reserve program. Access to the proposed Na Kula Natural Area Reserve is currently closed but if access were available through this designation, it would benefit hikers, hunters and other forest users to this area. Public hunters would also be available to control ungulates in both the designated Natural Area Reserve and the top section of the state Forest Reserve.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife request your approval to my staff's recommendations to include this area into the Natural Area Reserve System. Please call my office at 587-0166 should you have questions regarding our review of the Natural Area Reserve nomination.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul J. Conry".

Paul J. Conry
Administrator

C: DOFAW, Maui Branch
DOFAW, NARS Administration

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

August 19, 2010

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: MASTER'S REPORT ON PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the Notice of Public Hearing published statewide pursuant to HRS §195-4, and as authorized by the Board of Land and Natural Resources, I have conducted a public hearing relative to the proposed withdrawal of a portion of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve for designation as the Nakula Natural Area Reserve, TMK 2-1-8-1-9 and a portion of TMK 2-1-8-1-6, Maui. This hearing took place on April 28, 2010 at the Kula Community Center, 3690 Lower Kula Road, Kula, HI 96790. A public informational meeting was offered at 5:30pm prior to the hearing to introduce Division of Forestry and Wildlife staff and answer questions about the proposal.

The public hearing was called to order at 6:30pm, and the proposal was summarized, followed by a hearing and recording of public testimony according to the list of people who have signed up to present testimony. The hearing adjourned at approximately 8:30pm. Attached is an exhibit of the oral testimony received at the hearing, as well as written testimony received.

William Evanson

Natural Area Reserves System Maui Program Manager

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF APPROXIMATELY 1,500 ACRES FROM KAHIKINUI FOREST RESERVE (TMK 2-1-8-1-9, and 2-1-8-1-6 (POR)), HANA DISTRICT, MAUI, FOR SET ASIDE INTO THE NAKULA NATURAL AREA RESERVE

DATE: April 28, 2010

TIME: 6:30

PLACE: Kula Community Center

- I. Introduction – William Evanson, Hearing Officer (HO):
 - A. Opening
 - i. It is now 6:30p.m. and this public hearing is called to order.
 - ii. This is a formal public hearing on the proposed withdrawal of approximately 1,500 acres from Kahikinui Forest Reserve (TMK (2) 1-8-1: 009, 006 (portion), Hana District, Maui, for set aside as the Nakula Natural Area Reserve.
 - iii. My name is Bill Evanson and I work with the Natural Area Reserves System of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources.
 - iv. Other DOFAW staff that are here are:
 1. John Cumming, Shane DeMattos, Lance DeSilva, Glenn Shishido, John Medeiros, Dave Quisenberry, Peter Landon, Torrie Nohara, Bryon Stevens from Maui DOFAW branch, Emma Yuen, and Randy Kennedy from DOFAW administration.
 - v. The Board of Land and Natural Resources has appointed me to function as the Hearings Officer of this public hearing on their behalf.
 - vi. As a reminder, I hope you have all signed in. If not, please do so on the sign-in sheets so we will have a complete record of the persons attending this hearing. There is a separate column for those who wish to present testimony on the proposed designation. Please check your name on the testimony column if you would like to speak. I will call the names in the order in which they are listed to hear the testimonies.
 - B. Purpose
 - i. The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to present comments on the proposed withdrawal of approximately 1,500 acres from Kahikinui Forest Reserve (TMK (2) 1-8-1: 009, 006 (portion), Hana District, Maui, for set aside as the Nakula Natural Area Reserve.
 - C. Approvals and Notices of Public Hearing
 - i. Approvals to hold public hearings on the proposed designation were obtained from:
 1. the Natural Area Reserves Commission –Jan 20, 2010
 2. the Board of Land and Natural Resources – Feb 11, 2010
 - ii. Notice of public hearing appeared on April 5 in the statewide and in the county newspapers of the subject area meeting the legal requirement of publication at least twenty days in advance of the public hearing. A notice of public hearing was also sent to various agencies and organizations identified as having an interest in the subject area.
- II. Procedures During Hearing
 - A. Conduct of Hearing

In the conduct of this hearing, we will proceed as follows:

 - i. First, there will be a short informational presentation on the proposed designation.
 - ii. After the informational presentation, I will call on those who signed the list to testify.
 - iii. After these persons have presented their testimonies, I will open the floor to anyone else who wishes to speak.
 - iv. Please keep your statement as brief and succinct as possible and on the subject to allow others an opportunity to testify.
 - v. Please raise your hand to be recognized, if you have a question or comment on the designation and the floor is open.
 - vi. When given the floor, please present your name and comments clearly. We ask that

- vii. you do this because we are tape recording the hearing to prepare the minutes. It is important that you identify yourself; otherwise, we may not be able to identify who is speaking when we prepare the minutes.
- viii. I would also like to remind everyone that this is not a courtroom or adversarial type of proceeding, but a public hearing to gather testimonies. Thus, cross-examination or party-to-party rebuttals will not be allowed.
- ix. If you have a question, please direct your questions to me, and I will either answer your question or re-direct the question to the appropriate person.
- x. We expect that there may be differing opinions and we respect them. We want to hear them so that we can understand everyone's concerns and viewpoints. We also ask that members of the public and other participants respect the potential differing opinions and show respect.
- xi. Are there any questions about the format for this evening?

III. DOFAW Presentation (Emma Yuen)

- A. A draft of the proposed transfer of TMK (2) 1-8-1: 009, 006 (portion), Hana District, Maui, from Kahikinui Forest Reserve for set aside as the Nakula Natural Area Reserve, is available at the door. Please feel free to take a copy of the proposal. Additionally, copies of rules regulating activities within the Natural Area Reserves System, Forest Reserves System, Hawai'i Statewide Trails and Access Program, and Game Mammal Hunting are available at the door. A copy of the Management and Administrative Guidelines for the NARS are also available.
 - B. Presentation: Summary of Proposal.
 - i. NARS: Established by HRS: Ch. 195 to: "Preserve in perpetuity land and water areas which support communities...of the natural flora and fauna, as well as geological sites, of Hawaii." The system presently consists of 19 reserves on five islands, encompassing more than 109,000 acres of the State's most unique ecosystems. The Natural Area Reserves System is administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife.
 - ii. Nakula NAR proposal: Designate approximately 1,500 acres a Nakula Natural Area Reserve, withdrawing area from Forest Reserve Designation (Kahikinui FR). TMK: 2-1-8-1-6 (portion) and 2-1-8-1-9
 - iii. Biological importance of Nakula:
 - 1. The leeward Haleakala Koa forest has been reduced to 5% of its original range
 - 2. Proposed re-introduction site for the endangered Maui Parrotbill
 - 3. Tropical dryland forests are a threatened ecosystem in Hawai'i and around the world
 - 4. Rare and endangered plants known from vicinity of area
 - 5. Potential habitat: `Ope`ape`a (Hawaiian Hoary bat), Blackburn's Sphinx Moth, Nene, `Ua`u (Hawaiian Petrel)
 - iv. Priority Threats:
 - 1. Feral ungulates, Weed invasion, Fire, Loss of native diversity
- Forest Reserves System: The Forest Reserve System was created in 1903 by the Territorial Government of Hawai'i through Act 44 to protect mauka (upland) forests to provide the necessary water requirements for the lowland agriculture demands and surrounding communities.
- 1. Public-private partnership to protect and enhance important forested mauka lands for their abundance of public benefits and values.
 - 2. Managed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) for public Forest Reserve lands The Forest Reserve System is managed under the guidance of the Hawai'i State Constitution, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (Chapter 183) and associated Hawai'i Administrative Rules (Chapter 104).
- History Kahikinui Forest Reserve:
- 1. 1928: Kahikinui Forest Reserve established
 - 2. 1980s: Small area fenced in Manawainui gulch by Haleakala

Ranch/DOFAW Forestry

3. 1984: 8,747 acres of DHHL land withdrawn from the Forest Reserve
 4. 1992: Kahikinui Forest Reserve Environmental Assessment (EA) published to construct cabin and trail systems in western section of Reserve
 - 1994: DHHL recinded access agreement with DOFAW
 6. 1995: Kahikinui Forest Partnership Working Group leased a portion of the land from DHHL after submitting an management plan. Kahikinui Kuleana Homestead Project EA published
 7. 2003: Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership established
 8. 2004: Environmental Assessment published for the Kahikinui Forest Protection and Restoration project – project ongoing
- vii. Kahikinui Forest Reserve Current Status: Managed by DOFAW, Hunting Unit C, No public road or foot trail. No access from Haleakala National Park, Can only be accessed through DHHL lands or surrounding private properties with permission
- viii. History: NAR Proposal
1. 1970s: NARS Commission identified area as possible NAR
 2. 2009: NARS Commission recommended Nakula NAR
 3. 2010: BLNR authorized DOFAW to hold a public hearing on the proposed NAR/Forest Reserve withdrawal to receive testimony
- ix. NAR proposal/FR Withdrawal Process: The nomination is further refined and public testimony submitted to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). The nomination then goes before the BLNR for decision-making on NAR designation and withdrawal from the Forest Reserve. If BLNR approves proposal, goes to the Governor for Executive Orders to withdraw the area from the Kahikinui Forest Reserve to set aside the Nakula NAR. Nomination may be read online at: <http://www.Hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/nars/nakula.doc> To comment: Email: dlnr@hawaii.gov Mail: Chairperson, attn: Emma Yuen, P.O. Box 621 Honolulu, HI 96809. Written testimony received no later than May 10, 2010

IV. Testimony on Proposed Designation (HO)

A. Public input

- i. Now that we have explained what is being proposed, we'd like to proceed to getting your comments and testimony.
- ii. I have the list of persons who have signed up to present testimony on the designation and will call each person to testify in the order listed.
- iii. Please state your name, if you are an individual or representing an organization, and present your testimony.
- iv. Please remember that this hearing is to receive testimony on the proposed NAR and withdrawal of the Forest Reserve land. We would like to ask that you provide testimony specifically on the NAR/Forest Reserve proposal as that is the issue that is scheduled for decision-making.
- v. Try to limit your testimony to 3 minutes. You may submit additional testimony in writing before May 10, 2010.

- B. Please send the written testimonies to DLNR@hawaii.gov, which is the preferred method of correspondence. If you are unable to access a computer with internet, you may send testimony to:

Ms. Laura Thielen, Chairperson, Department of Land and Natural Resources
C/o Emma Yuen
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl St. Rm 325
Honolulu, HI 96813
Please send testimony by May 10, 2010.

Testimony: See Below – “Public Testimony” Section

- C. We have now completed the list of those who signed up to give testimony. Is there anyone else present who would like to provide testimony? Please come up and state your name clearly. (Additional Testimony in “Public Testimony” Section). Any questions?

Lawrence Tabaco: I have a question. All this testimony that will be coming in – how do we really know

that you folks will take a look at it, and not throw it away. How do we have the guarantee that we will be included?

Randy Kennedy: there is a section in the recommendation to the board submittal that will have all the testimony.

Emma Yuen: That will be posted online prior to the board meeting, as well as summaries of the written testimony. You can check that, and if you think there are discrepancies, you can check that and Board meetings are public and accept testimony. So please send in written testimony.

Unidentified: Will the board meeting be here on Maui?

HO: Probably not, given budget restrictions. There are many different agenda items on that day, this will just be one of them. Much of the decisions are on Honolulu which is the population center so that is where they have it.

Randy Kennedy: That is a decision of the Chairperson, if there's an item that warrants it to move to another island, they frequently do that.

Unidentified: Not knowing the meeting agenda, this has to be one of the main agenda items. Can we make a request that this meeting be on Maui, so we can speak directly, rather than going through you?

HO: We can have our island related issues discussed on the island, although that seldom happens.

Unidentified: This being such an important issue, a one shot deal, it should be on Maui.

HO: It would help if people include that in their testimony and contacted us, like you are right now. This testimony is going to go to the Chairperson who will make the decision. It costs a lot of money to fly guys over, and it gets complicated logistically. But I agree with you, that island related issues can be decided and heard – that people that are most affected can talk directly to the board.

Unidentified: Is this the only public hearing on the NAR, here on Maui?

HO: We had a public hearing to extend Kanaio NAR.

Unidentified: What about the other guys on the other side of the island, they are more involved than us.

HO: We decided where to have this meeting where the people who are most affected could come closest. But there aren't that many community centers in the back side, its kind of sparse, you guys live around here, so we wanted to pick an area that is in between.

Unidentified: When will this be on the board submittal?

HO: There isn't a time or date set.

Charley Vilalan: How much money from federal money? Is that the reason you guys are pushing this? Tell us the truth, is that the reason you're pushing this?

HO: No.

Charley Vilalan: How much is from federal funds – 90? – 60? – just give us a percent.

Emma Yuen : Are you trying to submit more testimony?

Charley Vilalan: I am trying to see whether its just because you like federal funds, and you are going to force feed this, just because you like federal funds, its not fair.

HO: We couldn't get federal funds without having possession of the area.

Unidentified: Who are the BLNR members for Maui?

HO: I believe it is Jerry Edlao.

V. Decision-making on Proposal

- A. After considering your comments and other testimonies, should it be decided to go forward with the proposed withdrawal of approximately 1,500 acres from Kahikinui Forest Reserve (TMK (2) 1-8-1: 009, 006 (portion), Hana District, Maui, for set aside as the Nakula Natural Area Reserve, the Division will submit the proposed designation to Board of Land and Natural Resources for adoption.
- B. Should the Board decide to adopt the proposed designation, we will send proposals to the Governor for her final approval and signature.
- C. Assuming the Governor approves the documents, certified copies will be filed with the Office of Lieutenant Governor.
- D. Ten days after filing, the designation of the NAR and withdrawal from the Forest Reserve will become effective and have the force and effect of law.

VI. Adjournment of Public Hearing

- A. On behalf of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, I wish to thank you for attending this public hearing. The public hearing is adjourned. Time: 8:30pm. Please drive home carefully.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY
**PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF A PORTION OF THE KAHIKINUI FOREST RESERVE FOR
DESIGNATION AS THE NAKULA NATURAL AREA RESERVE, TMK 2-1-8-1-9 AND A
PORTION OF TMK 2-1-8-1-6, MAUI**

PUBLIC HEARING – APRIL 28, 2010

Benjamin Joaquin

My name is Benjamin Joaquin. I'm a retired fireman and avid hunter. I'm against this designation of a natural area preserve primarily because its about getting rid of all these animals or ungulates as you people call them. This area is a natural area for these animals. You fence this area and you kill all the animals in this area, eventually there will be no game in the back of the mountain. Saving this area for moths and bats to me is a waste of time and money. The koa forests and trees can only last so long, they cant live forever. So that's my comments. Thank you.

David Brown

Before I start, I want to personally thank Randy Kennedy, Emma Yuen, Torrie Nohara, John Cumming, for coming up and being nice. Everyone else coming up here will say the same thing, but now you don't need to. First of all, the reserves started in 1970, why? Because this was the model in 1970. Reserves are last century. Modern thing is multiple use- hunting, photography, nature preserve, protect bats and birds. The bats deserve a chance, you deserve a chance. This multiple use is important for this century. It's hard to predict the future but can predict the past. I didn't want to bring this up, but I have to. Ahihi-Kinau- is the worst thing to happen to Maui recreation in this century. Mr. Kennedy is from Oahu if Mr. Kennedy closed down Hanauma Bay for two years, he wouldn't have a job. The next thing is money. Yesterday NARS lost \$500,000, there's no way the NARS can do this. They don't have the money. They were supposed to do this management plan in 2 years. The NARS people were in the newspaper quoted as not having the money for a management plan in 2 years. The golden gate bridge was built in 18 months, the empire state building was built in 1 year and 45 days but the NARS can't do a plan in two years. Give me a break. This is a done deal, this is going to go through, they are just here to be nice to us. And they are nice people. This is a done deal, they're just here to be nice.

This is going to sink the boat: remember the superferry? What we want is an EIS. They did an EA six years ago, this is not valid. Turtle bay, this was done in 2004, its not valid anymore. Don't be a whiner be a winner. Public Access Trails Hawaii – it's a new group, we do advocacy, education and research (information, not opinion). My name is Dave Brown. This is going to take money to defeat this, its going to take an EIS, or else it's a done deal. Shocked. I am a retired doctor. Mr. Kennedy hasn't walked on property. Diagnosing property that hasn't been walked on.

Bruce Faulkner

Testifying on own behalf. Oppose takeover of public land for a special interest group. Unfortunate to see the destruction of a big part of our State today caused by a few single minded self serving individuals that lack consideration of others. These people seem to think they know what's best for everyone and will force their ways on others and blinded by personal agendas and go to hell with everyone else. We need to recognize that all public lands belong to everyone – not just one special interest group, like the natural area reserves. Basically this withdrawal from Division management constitutes a taking of public land and should be taken in court.

Now that I got your attention, i'm going to digress - I'm fortunate to have hiked and hunted for the last 40 years. I was last there about 6 weeks ago, and the memories are fresh in my mind. This area is very special to me – both my kids went on their first big game hunt in this area, our family dogs and pets have enjoyed feeling of freedom chasing game birds. I have had articles in magazines about the Nakula area and have shared the experience of walking from Haleakala top to the sea with friends and acquaintances. Over the years I've met new people, like Blondie Freidas and Hernie Amaral. People may have thought I was crazy, but I have no regrets about these adventures like hunting goats. In the early days I hitchhiked to the top of Haleakala, hiked down by myself and spent three days here hiking and hunting with a bow. Believe me when I say I know this area well and I'm not alone – I'm sure many people in here can say the same. Out of all these years, I've enjoyed this area as open space it provided. If the NARS people get control of the area they

will fence it and proceed to eradicate the resource that has helped my family survive when times were tough and money was in short supply. Yes, we still eat goat today, but nowadays its more by choice than necessity. The NARS will lock away this area, restricting public use, their track record is clear. We already have too few recreational resources, as population grows so does this demand. The public wants public lands managed for the types of public use that will sustain the recreational attractiveness that they enjoy. We need to manage public land for sustainable public values which include enjoyment of recreational activities. The low impact of hiking and hunting is obvious. If the NARS people are sincere about some degree of protection of this area they can contribute their resources to the department of forestry and help forestry's ability to protect land. Public lands are an asset of the people and need to remain in public use so future generations can enjoy the resources they hold.

We need to be reassured that one of our last great recreational assets will remain for the public to use, and this will not happen with NARS control. Bottom line: Anything that the NARS wants to accomplish can be accomplished by the Forest Reserves so why withdraw it from that designation.

In conclusion, can I see a show a hands of people against this withdrawal? Can we make a note that most people raised their hands, a majority was against it. Because not everybody testified, but they were here to show their opposition. Put it on the record that most people raised their hands. Thank you.

Justin Kekiwi

Representing himself. Thanks everyone for coming together and talking about this. I'm for the NAR because its one of the last koa forests left on the south slope. As a Hawaiian, to us, koa was one of the main resources. We use it for everything for tools, transportation, weapons. It's a precious resource. Its only got 5 percent left, I think we should save it. I hunt, I'm a hunter, I understand the importance of food for the family, but at the same time its not for us, the purpose of this NAR is for the future our children, our grandchildren, hundred years from now. If this world is still here, at least the have a place where they can say "This is real Hawaii" -- the animals, the life, what it was before we all came. This 1,500 acres is not that much. It's a lot of land and animals can cover, but the hunters can help us with this, but once they're out its pau. This is for the land, for the aina, for the future.

James Clask

Disagree with this - really badly. Unlike Bruce, I haven't been there 40 years, I've been there 31 years. I see no use for the State with no money, laying off people, wasting their time on a place with nothing. There is no forest there. Have you ever walked on that mountain? I've been in there for 31 years. The koa there burnt because not enough animals were in there, and its overgrown and theres fires, more than one. And the area is not accessible. How are you going to put out the fires there? There's no water there every going to come there. That's the lee side. How is the water going to come off of the clouds, just a little piss off the clouds. That's it. There's no water, never was, never will be. You guys are only going to use money that could be spent someplace else. Talking about the kids, the kids could use the wasted money to go to school, instead of Furloughs. Kids are staying at home. Furlough Fridays. Waste money -- I mean, yeah, protect the forest and whatever is left, hopefully someone can get a moth or a bat. But my family has been there, I'm fourth generation, and have been using it for recreation, enjoyment, food and I have a grandchildren to come, nine months in the oven, and I hope they can get in there and enjoy the hunting, picture-taking, walking, scenery, the spirituality effect. If you taking the area away, what is going to happen to our kids? You guys already taking away the school from them. That's all I got to say. Waste of money.

Dusti Becker

I love East Maui's forest and wildlife and am in support of making a tiny part of this area a Natural Area Reserve. The proposed Nakula NAR from the Kahikinui Forest Reserve is rather small, but once the forest recovers it will be an important benefit for leeward Maui's people and wildlife. Water is scarce -- people are lugging water with their trucks. Once the trees recover, the leaves will trap clouds and mist water that will restore streams near Kahikinui. I love Maui's plants and birds, and it will restore habitat for endangered birds, the Maui Parrotbill, the amakihi, apapane, alauahio. You've heard people say it's dangerous to have all your eggs in one basket. That's the situation for the birds on Maui. All of the endangered birds live in one forest on the windward side of east Maui. One forest. They need another forest. There are lots of places where people can hunt, but there is only one forest on East maui. If there was something bad that happened

on Maui, like Iniki. Iniki wiped out so much of the native birds and plants on Kauai so bad, all those birds that took millions of years to be created, would be gone. Extinct. I support making the Nakula NAR in the leeward side of Maui because it will provide a different type of forest for the birds, and may take them off the endangered species list.

Recognizing a healthy piece of forest is like looking at a coral reef – you can recognize one when you see big uhu and lots of types and sizes and you can tell when a reef is polluted when there is only small fish and not too many, or only one type. It's the same thing in a forest. You know its healthy if there are many kinds of native trees. But the native forest here is sick. There, you can only find a few plants on the steep slopes where they are safe from feral farm animals, where they can't eat them, or crowded by grasses. You'd be lucky to see a native bird at all. But a Natural Area Reserve will help the birds recover.

I often think about that song, by Israel Kamakawioole that says, "what would the ancestors say if they came back?" I think they would weep if they saw the way it is now – barren and eroded. I think they would be proud of us if we preserve the forest. That is what the Nakula NAR will do, and I hope you can support it, and thank you.

Richard Aracil

I'm here to express my support of the Nakula NAR. The track record of the Natural Area Reserves System, they have helped preserve the most biologically unique places in the world. I believe the creation of the Nakula NAR will be a step forward in preserving Hawaii's unique biological legacy. I work in the conservation field, and I understand the staggering loss of biodiversity and ecosystem function the Hawaiian islands have suffered as a result of human activity. Establishing this NAR will set right some of the wrongs we have done to the lands, and preserve a truly rare ecosystem. Managing natural resources widely and sustainably will benefit all users in this tiny archipelago that is the Hawaiian Islands.

On Maui water is often a scarce commodity, often on the leeward side where water is often imported. Having enough water on this island depends on having watersheds. In Kahikinui, the area is severely degraded from outright habitat destruction and failure to be good stewards of the land, this area is no longer effective watershed. We could reverse this situation by reforesting this area and the creation of Nakula NAR will go a long way to helping us reach this goal.

Ehren Banfield

I support the establishment of the Nakula NAR, for many reasons. Protecting this area will help protect and restore many of Maui's fragile and endangered species and ecosystems. And this would help increase watershed flow with reforestation of koa and could lead to establishment of native forest birds, especially the endangered Maui Parrotbill. This could face extinction if more is not done to save this species. Akohekohe will face the same fate. This will also help protect the small population of Maui Alauahio already in this area and many species will be protected. These are just a few reasons to protect Nakula NAR, but most importantly, I believe it is a moral obligation to protect habitat and species that need help and protection.

Pat Bily

Representing self, and testifying to say that there are some remaining forest in this area, there are hundreds-of-year old koa. That's part of people's heritage. The land's degraded, but there's also tens of thousands of goats in this area. One guy made a good point about the animals keeping some fire protection because you have to keep the grasses down. But there is a lot of contention of this issue because people feel threatened for hunting sources. There's other places to hunt, and this area is landlocked, which messes things up. The only way is if you have a special inside with the DHHL or landowners and so its difficult to get in there. The animals need to be controlled. With people's cooperation, I think the Natural Area Reserves and hunters can come to some sort of compromise, so people can harvest meat there now, before the fences that protects what's left. When the rains come, all that dirt comes down the mountain. So I hope there can be cooperation.

Lawrence Tabaco

I say, the money going spend on the fence, you need to get access there first. The money could be spent on helicopters to fly us in, and the money be used to build the fence. The money could be spent on public right of way, for the hunters. All the fences, I mean not all - I've seen dogs go through fences in The Nature

Conservancy, the trees fall down, the animals go right over the fence. They spend big money from the State to TNC, our tax money. The State gotta match every donation they have. The condition of the fence needs maintenance every ten years. It's not even half way, and then they have to replace the fence, spending money. Just get hunters up there, and keep the population down. If you eradicate the animals, no one is going to eat the noxious plants. They will take over the native plants, and it will be worse. That's what's happening with the East Maui Watershed. I don't know if its intentionally, the rosy apple has dense roots and it contains the soil, now its dying, the noxious grasses will take over, that would be worse. The cherry guava has roots that will contain the soil.

There's not that much game for everyone. If they're taking away all of this, that will make it worse, harder. We can't even get spots to hunt hardly because all the young generation. You go Kahikinui Natural Area Reserve? What's the fence for? There's a lot of deer in it. Same with Makawao Forest Reserve, the deer can go from the damaged part in Makawao. The deer can go through the fence. I'm against it. Get the public right of way first.

Jeffery DeRego

I'm opposed to the Nakula NAR. It is so hard for me to understand the motive for taking a large parcel 1500 acres and leaving only 900 acres for hunting. This has happened time and time again, and the hunters and their communities always lose. They are taking the last and only forest reserve for hunting left, Polipoli has very few and wont be able to handle the future generations of hunters. Its sad that future generations will not have the opportunity to enjoy this forest. I've went to lots of meetings and heard lots of proposals, but this is the worst. It effects the last part of the forest reserve. It is a slaughter. Stop the eradication. They have shot 1300 goats. The slaughter goes on with this type of preservation. Lets get access for this area and more hunting. This time, me and my fellow hunters have the same concern, we will do anything and whatever it takes to stop this. We can't have the last forest reserve for present and future be taken away. Leave it as it is.

Charley Vilalan

You know what, the problem is you got to talk to Hawaiian Homes. Hawaiian Homes need money for build houses. It's not like the old days you drive up when you like. You pay one fee, the money going make Hawaiian Homes wake up. Eh, we going make money from the land all we got to do is manage 'em. Going be viable for them open up the land for you guys. That's where the dialogue should be. Should be with Hawaiian Homes. Now if Hawaiian Homes allow that access, would free up at least 40% more of the hunting area. My personal feeling is our Alapai--If you know history, Kamehameha nui was Kamehameha's father. Kamehameha nui had one brother, Alapai nui, but they never get along. Alapai nui wen live on this side. But when Kamehameha came across, the father went tell him, the boy coming, he going do the conquest. You guys either going beef or you guys going align. The Alapai wen align with the nephew. That would give him the right and the amount of canoes, he could walk from Makalele point all the way to Iao. That's where he going pound Pilai he wen run. But you know what, where the canoes stay. The canoes stay over there on top that property in one cave. Now this guys already pissed off about the State, you know we get all this history, they no know sh**. They don't know sh**. Why they no ask the Hawaiians? The thing about that north side is this Nature Conservancy, they coming, save the moth, they tell us I tell you guys what you Hawaiians need. After you pau, you guys no pick up. That's what you guys worried about. These guys going come in, make makaala, and then we going save the tweeties and we going save the mountains, you guys tell us when you guys coming in. It not going work. All you conservationists, I with you guys man. I want that sandalwood forest back up in there. But you cannot neglect the generations of ? you cannot. Times have changed. You guys got to include these guys. My big thing is they better not knock down all the historic sites. I don't know what you guys look for. But get canoes inside there. Hundreds inside caves up in that area. That's where Alapai nui wen put them. The thing is there was one signal from Lanai if Pilai was to come back to Lanai to fight Kamehameha, the launch would be from here. They would burn one fire on Lanai and over here they goin burn em. The canoes would be sitting inside the puka. Very historic. Plenty mana. Don't mess with them. It's not for regular people to touch, it's very historic. Now I like these guys, come ask us, ask the Hawaiians what you guys know? We don't like everyone know. You going tell everyone where you get your mango, your opihi and your crab? No, it's none their business, you going find your own, right? Opaе, everything. I get my opaе spots. I don't tell everybody. Nahiku we going get opaе. Those canoes don't belong in everybody's hands, they belong in those caves for the future, then we show the keiki. Then we show how we going to show it. Now that's the historic part about it. Talk to

Hawaiian Homes. Hawaiians, we need to move out our land, we need housing money. You go up there, 5 dollars, 5 dollars, 5 dollars, everybody. Go make money for us. Hawaiian Homes like, "eh, revenue." You know what the big thing is, when they set em up, you guys got to monitor yourselves. I was one policeman, I was one game warden you know why I get plenty felonious busts, because I make friends with everybody. I tell them eh, this your property, you guys give me the license numbers and the kolohes, and I go get em. Police yourselves. Tell them, no make like that, no leave your rubbish. You guys the one, that's why you guys losing, they no more respect for you guys. Get back together, you guys got to malama your own space you guys. Us guys gotta do our job. ?. It gotta be fair. Anyways, thanks.

Paul Fasi

Good evening everyone, my name is Paul Fasi. I'm a planner for the County, but I'm not here as a planner, I'm here on my own behalf. You know in my profession we would first need to look for what the impact is going to be on the community. Some of you mentioned an EIS. The project that requires an EIS is this one here. This will have a severe impact on the community, it has an impact on the lifestyles of the community and it should not go forth without an EIS. If EIS is not performed, DLNR, NARS people are violating their own laws. Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 205 the land use commission, this thing is in violation of the land use commission if an EIS is not performed.

Let me clear up two misconceptions. Everyone's talking about rainforests and watersheds. There's no rainforest here, don't even mention watershed in your vocabulary in this place. Second thing is, you know it's been up there hundreds of years without it being fenced off, and its fine. All of a sudden you're going to fence it off. You know this NARS program is a concept that started on the mainland. And that's a good program, where they've got hundreds and thousands of acres. We live on an island. You can't take 1500 acres off an island and selfishly say we're going to make a NARS out of it. For who? Not for me, not for my sons. It doesn't do them any good. There's no money for this kind of foolish project, maybe 2004 when you guys conceptually talked about it, but right now in this new world, new economy with no money, furloughs, school kids have no lunch, living on the beach, and the State is going to spend money on a NARS program? You guys got your priorities mixed up. This is totally irresponsible and unnecessary in this day and age you guys got to reevaluate the priorities. The second thing is when you do stuff like this, it has unintended consequences. What is one of them? Well you push the game out. Where does the game go? It ends up down in Wailea and you get all local people complaining. It goes to the golf courses, and need to get hunters there. It affects the farmers, it starts ravaging all the crops. You know it's a mistake, and a foolish endeavor to continue this NARS program on an island. That habitat there has been there for hundreds of years, stayed there for hundreds of years, without it being fenced off. Totally irresponsible and unnecessary and if the money is spent for this kind of foolish project, you guys are wrong.

Peter Landon

I'm representing myself, I also work for the Natural Area Reserves System. I'm for the Nakula proposal, not because I'm against access or hunting or foreclosing any public land at all, I'm firmly against that as well as what's happening in Ahihi Kinau. I believe in closures to get a hold of things and go forth with management and planning and involving public input but as far as closing public access to any part of public land I'm firmly against. I know there's a lot of issues on the table, the fence, the hunting, the access, but really the only purpose here is to say whether or not we want to, for the future generations, do something for the native species in this area. Right now that area, I guess we got the history from the 1970s has kind of been in limbo, there are some projects going on right now with the Forestry Department where they are planning fences and watershed partnerships and these types of things, there are management things in the making which we could all be part of the process where we could decide what we'd like to see, but it doesn't matter what we draw on the map, the fights for the State's money and things of that nature are not to be won or lost in this room, it's simply to say whether or not we want to make an effort for those native species in that small 1500 acre parcel of a multi million acre statewide forestry program. It doesn't change anything, natural areas is part of the forestry and wildlife program, I work with the same guys that work forestry and have coffee in the baseyard together. So the issue and the battle and interest over the canoes that none of us probably knew about need to be surfaced, I agree, but here we're only trying to make an effort for the preservation of native species in a 1500 acre parcel of forest. Thank you.

Tony Povillitis

I live in Makawao. Listening to the comments, it kind of struck me that you are all fighting over an ever shrinking piece of pie. And I've worked in forestry and conservation biology all my life, and I can tell you right now, what Maui needs is a massive reforestation koa, sandalwood, and other native plants. We can have our hunting, fantastic wood for handi-crafts or to build. We can have it all. I don't even see that on the table for discussion. We have a lot of land that is degraded. We have a lot of land that is open that used to be forested. Maui is suffering and its going to suffer more with climate change. We know its coming down the road. You just gotta open up your eyes a little bit and see what's happening to the world. We're losing it folks. If we don't get some good forests back here some native forests, we're sunk and our descendants are going to curse us. That's the truth. So I'm for this. This proposal is a drop in the bucket. We gotta be happy about that. Get to work on the real issue. How can we have it all on Maui? We still have a chance. You know we are sitting around fighting among each other. Back and forth, hunters verses preservationists and all that stuff. That's not the issue here. The issue is reforestation, where's our native forest? You come over here and look around Hawaii you see what's happening to those native forests. We're running out of water folks. Gonna get worse. I hate to sound so gloomy but this is truth. You have to look into the mirror of reality and come to grips with it folks. Lets all get together and demand reforestation. We can have our hunting, we can have our wood, we can have our water, we can have our native birds, we can have it all. We better get busy. Thanks a lot.

Frank Kuamoo II

Good evening, I'm Frank Kuamoo, some of you guys know me. I'm a hunter and a business man. I represent myself and future hunters like my sons and daughters and everyone coming after me. I know the fencing issue is something separate we've been told so I'm not going to go over that. Also, tonight I was told they won't restrict access to us up there. I just wanted to remind the powers that be whether this thing goes through or not to keep true to that word. You know there's individuals that can still go up there via Kahikinui or ranch or what have you so I want to remind the people in charge not to restrict us from going up there and perhaps we should work on something where instead of total eradication, a game management plan there are hundreds if not thousands of us willing to manage game on any part of the island. I choose to hunt basically because I choose to hunt. But there are those that survive on the meat. Some of my friends and family for example survive on animals that I catch. If I smoke a goat today, tomorrow its all gone. Friends and family are in a rough place and I share with them. That's the Hawaiian way. And also I want the powers that be to remember one thing, we should remember sustainable living for people now. Of course we needed the koa forests and some of these other things. If you look around how we are living now. We sustain our living a lot of time by the hunting or the farming and that's an important issue that I want the State and the people in charge to remember and to take into account. Just remember people rely on the game animals to survive and once again remind the powers that be that they should work with us and make sure that we still do still have the access up there like I was told. That's my mana'o. Mahalo for letting me share.

Louis Cambra

I'm Louis Cambra. I'm a retired police officer from this island. I did work for fish and game under Joe Medeiros in the mid 60s. I remember working for Joe Medeiros in Wildlife. There was a Senator or representative, Harry Seal. I don't know if people know him. He was one of our Legislators. He always used to say, State land belongs to the public. And it's the State's responsibility to provide access. Since the mid 60s til today that never happened. Let me give you information. State forest areas you can take exclosures, like they did, national parks did for the mamane. Lanai did that. You want us to protect trees on the big island. All forest exclosures to keep animals out in certain areas. But you guys want to go and do the whole thing, eradicate everything. I want to emphasize this here when I was in fish and game I took a whole bunch of scientist or people that study birds at the national park Hana mountain, 10 on horseback and mules. They put in net to capture all these birds. The ranchers or people that ranch cut the trail down in real good forest area, made a trail now all the way down to Kaupo gap. They kept all these birds, the iwi, the crescent Hawaiian creeper. All these rare birds in Hawaii to study these birds. You know where they study these birds? These birds were left at Kipahulu ranch, kept here at Kipahulu school. They all died from starvation. And you talk about protecting birds and protecting the forests. Well, we planted trees, Kaupo gap, all the forest trees all up in the area. I haven't seen one time as working for fish and game, not one time any trees that anybody planted. I'll give you an example, Polipoli. When I was working at fish and game they cleared all the land to plant trees. First of all we go clear all the land so that we have good access to hunting. Planted high end trees. Can't even walk in there so thick. Can't even walk in there. You know its all promises fish

and game or DLNR makes to people, to the public. And now you want to take it away land like this here. Why don't you open it like Harry Seal say, the State land belongs to the public. Not fencing it all off. Open it all up you want people to get access to there. Open it up, get in there. Several years back, Haleakala National Park they came in with helicopters and shot all whatever they could. They went into State land, private land. State didn't say nothing, mums the word. Eradicated a whole bunch of goats, everything else over there. And I press you hunter clubs, hunters, you guys want to plant trees, you get a group of guys. See the club, we plant trees all the time, our clubs, in areas. We wait for you guys to plant trees? Never ever. Never in a hundred years you'll do that. Anyways, that's all I wanted to say.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Patrick Conant, April 9, 2010, Volcano, HI

I strongly support creation of a new "Nakula" NAR on Maui to protect unique features of that leeward Haleakala ecosystem. That slope of the mountain has been abused by over grazing and browsing of wild cattle and goats for almost 200 years. Much of the topsoil that was there is now on what is left of the reefs on that South shore. That watershed is severely degraded.

However, Thanks to a cooperative effort, there is great potential for restoration of the mesic and dry forests there. The work has already made great progress thanks to Ulupalakua Ranch, Haleakala Ranch, DOFAW, DHHL, County of Maui, Tri-isle RC&D, , Haleakala National Park, NRCS, USGS-BRD ,USFWS and others and many, many hours of volunteer time. Creation of the Nakula NAR would show a serious commitment by DOFAW to provide maximum protection to the remnants of that once vast native habitat unique to Maui.

I assisted with the construction of the small enclosure fence in Manawainui Gulch in the 1980's to protect a few very rare native begonia relative (pua maka nui) left there. While doing volunteer work for Haleakala Ranch in the 1980s I hiked through that proposed NAR area from tree line all the way down makai and I have seen what uncontrolled feral ungulates can do. Now axis deer are a more recent threat that only adds to the problems. East of the proposed NAR is severely overgrazed and trampled so that the ground is bare or almost so over hundreds of acres. Now is the time to protect Nakula before the same fate befalls it.

I strongly encourage you to approve the creation of the Nakula NAR. The maximum protection that the NARS provides will provide a high standard to which owners of other conservation lands on the leeward slope of Haleakala can aspire to into the future. Restoration techniques learned in the NAR can be used outside of it and vice versa . It will be a great permanent benefit both mauka and makai ,including to the South shore reefs.

Andrea Baer, April 22, 2010

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please nominate Nakula as a Natural Area Reserve system.

Hawai'i is the extinction capital of the world, and we need all the help we can get to preserve our endangered species. The endangered Nene (Hawaiian goose) has been observed in the area, and the rocky subalpine uplands are potential nesting sites for the endangered 'Ua'u (Hawaiian Petrel). The endangered 'Opea'ape'a (Hawaiian Hoary Bat) is also a likely resident of the area. The area has also been proposed as a reintroduction site for native Hawaiian birds, such as the endangered Maui Parrotbill, Maui 'Alauahio, and 'Akohekohe. The Recovery Plan for Endangered Hawaiian Forest Birds states that a continuous "lei" or ring of suitable forest should be reconnected around Haleakala, especially at upper elevations where mosquitoes are rare. The proposed Nakula NAR also provides habitat for other native birds, such as the Kolea, Pueo, 'Apapane, and 'Amakihi. Additionally, at least 20 species of rare plants have been reported from the proposed Nakula NAR or adjacent lands with similar habitat; 8 of these are listed as endangered, including an endangered Ko'oko'olau (*Bidens micrantha* ssp. *kaleaha*), an endangered 'Ohawai (*Clermontia lindseyana*), an endangered Hawaiian Geranium, Nohoanu (*Geranium multiflorum*), and endangered 'Ahinahina (Haleakala Silversword).

Thank you for your time.

Laura Berthold, April 23, 2010

This letter is in support of the new Natural Area Reserve proposed on the south slope of Haleakala: Nakula Natural Area Reserve.

This reserve will protect rare koa forest and will provide habitat for native Hawaiian plants and animals. Protecting this area may provide new habitat for endangered forest birds that once roamed the leeward forests of Maui. This includes the endangered Maui parrotbill. Without this forest, these birds may succumb to the disease and habitat destruction of the windward side of the mountain. By this area becoming a Natural Area Reserve, there will be better protection and management that will help these native animals. Since nene and the Hawaiian bat are also residents to the area, we will further help these important native species as well. The future of Maui's natural inhabitants will be helped with this creation.

As a resident of the state of Hawaii, I appreciate the Department of Land and Natural Resources proposing this designation. Mahalo.

Lydia Garvey, Public Health Nurse, April 26, 2010, Clinton, OK

It is a unique, spectacular World Heritage site that is biologically diverse with numerous native/endangered plants, animals & ecosystems. Protecting these Public lands, waters, wildlife is vital to our waters, health, spirituality & future.

Your attention to this most urgent matter would be much appreciated by all present & future generations of all species. Thank you.

Matthew J. Medeiros, Ph.D., The Smithsonian Institution, Department of Entomology, Washington, DC, April 26, 2010 and May 4, 2010

I would like to support the nomination of the Nakula Natural Area Reserve (NAR) in the Kahikinui Forest Reserve on the south slope of Haleakala, Maui. In my opinion, this unique plot of land deserves the highest amount of protection possible.

I'm writing to ask that you please designate Nakula as a NAR. Protecting this rare leeward koa forest should receive MUCH higher priority than worrying about leaving it as managed goat-hunting habitat. There are lots of places to hunt goats but barely any leeward koa forest left on Maui.

Lauraine Ayers-Briel, Haiku, HI, April 27, 2010

I support the inclusion of the Nakula forest area into the protection of Natural Area Reserve Systems by the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for your continued diligence and efforts toward protecting what remains of these critical habitats. Aloha.

Elsa Bloedon, Former NARS Intern, April 29, 2010

Dear DLNR,

NARS is one, if not the, best of your organizations, and they continue under these subpar conditions to do great work for our 'aina. They deserve to be entrusted with the task of caring for Maui's dear Kahikinui reserve, and maintaining the unique ecosystem of those 1500 acres.

Please give this due consideration.

Eric Luke, Crew Leader, East Maui Watershed Partnership, April 29, 2010

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my support for the 1500 acre Kahikinui NAR proposal. I have worked in this area with biologists as a Crew Leader with the East Maui Watershed Partnership. I am aware of the potential for natural regeneration of native forest species after the removal of introduced ungulates. This area is at a higher elevation and is excellent habitat for many endangered bird species. I am also a hunter who is concerned for the public hunting opportunities available to tax paying citizens on Maui. This area is land locked by private property on the West side and below, Federal land above, and leased State land to the East. Access from the State side if ever an option would be the least attractive because of the contour of the land there. Established access through private property would probably be hard to come by.

I would also like to voice a concern and make a suggestion. My concern is the large parcel of prime hunting lands to the east being leased by the State to a Mr. Balthazar. I have been informed that this lease was just re-signed for an extended period. Why? This area is accessible from Mauka to Makai. If the 1500 acre Kahikinui parcel became a NAR, this other property would be perfect to make up the difference in hunting

lands lost on the map. The forest is mostly all non-native and animals are abundant. This is the best choice for a new hunting unit for the tax paying hunting community on Maui. However, I have been informed that Mr. Balthazar has connections to ensure this lease is renewed without public opinion considered. There are also many rumors of exotic animals being introduced there for hunting purposes as well as a permanent recreational cabin structure. Hopefully just rumors, but is the best use for this area for one man when many tax payers could benefit? This property also seems to include shoreline access which makes it all the better. To sum it up, most of the opposition to the Kahikinui NAR will be from hunters. We do not want to lose another hunting unit off the map even if we have virtually no access to it. Although it may not be possible at this time, the Balthazar leased area would more than make up for the loss of Kahikinui as a hunting unit in my opinion. And why is this State resource reserved for one person anyway? With the current condition of the economy, many are relying again on subsistence hunting to put food on the table. I am sure the subject of this lease will be revisited in the future. But for now, please add me as one more supporter for the Kahikinui NAR proposal.

Mahalo.

Allison Wiest, West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership, Lahaina, HI, April 29, 2010

Aloha,

I am writing in support for the proposed land in Kahikinui becoming part of the NAR. Mahalo.

Dusti Becker, Makawao, HI, April 29, 2010

Testimony in support of Nakula Natural Area Reserve

My name is Dusti Becker and I live in Makawao. I am speaking in support of making a new Natural Area Reserve out of a portion of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve. The proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve is rather small, only 1500 acres, and it is very remote with little in the way of trail access. Its lack of access and trails makes it of limited interest to hunters or hikers, but once the *koa* trees grow back the reserve will bring benefits to people living on the leeward side of Haleakala and benefits to our wildlife. Water is scarce in the Kahikinui area and many people on the leeward side have to truck water to their homes. When the forest recovers in the new Nakula Natural Area Reserve the trees will help trap water from clouds, mist, and fog and that will restore the streams near Kahikinui. I have been up in the area proposed for the new NAR and have watched the big *koa* in the gulches trap mist and drip it into the deep ravines. With more trees there will be more water.

A second reason I am in support of the new Nakula Natural Area Reserve is that it will restore habitat for endangered forest birds like the fascinating Maui parrotbill and the beautiful *Akohekohe* as well as other native species like the *Alauahio*, the *Amakihi*, and the *Apapane*. We all know it is unwise to "put all your eggs in one basket". Currently, that is the situation for endangered forest birds on Maui. All of the endangered forest birds like the Maui parrotbill and *Akohekohe* live in just one forest on the windward side of East Maui. The risk of their extinction can be lowered if they have another population in a different forest and scientists have long urged the DLNR to establish a second forest for these birds. They need another forest to live in just in case something bad happens on the windward side - like a hurricane. In 1992, hurricane *Iniki* wiped out many birds on *Kaua'i* and a big storm could do the same thing on windward Maui. The Nakula Natural Area Reserve on the leeward side of Maui will provide another forest for Maui's endangered native forest birds. It may help get the Maui parrotbill and *Akohekohe* off the endangered species list. We have nearly recovered the *Nene* in Hawaii, so more recovery success stories will bring fame and recognition to our island. In contrast, there are many acres set aside for hunting, biking, and hiking, so it seems that a tiny and remote NAR on the leeward side will have little impact on those human-oriented activities.

Recognizing a healthy forest is similar to knowing a healthy reef. We all know when a reef is healthy and not over-fished because we can find big *uhu* (parrotfish) and lots of different kinds of fish of all different sizes. You can tell when the reef is being over-fished or polluted when you only find little fish or just a few species of fish. It is the same story for a healthy forest - you know it is healthy if there are many kinds of native birds and native plants. Right now the leeward side of Haleakala is very sick- the native plants and animals have been killed off by non-natives. You can only find a few native trees and plants in gulches or on steep slopes where the feral farm animals can't eat them and where the exotic grasses can't smother them. If you

go to the Kahikinui side you are lucky to see a native bird, but a Natural Area Reserve will allow the native birds to live over here again.

I often think about that song by Isreal IZ, you know the one about "what would the ancestors say if they came back". I think they would weep to see the leeward side like it is now all barren and eroded, except that they would be happy about the Auwahi restoration project. They will be very proud us if we restore the forest and that is what the Nakula reserve will do. Please support designating the new Nakula Natural Area Reserve. Mahalo.

Ehren Banfield, Makawao, HI, April 29, 2010

I support the decision to nominate Nakula Natural Area Reserve (NAR) from the Kahikinui Forest Reserve. I have many reasons for supporting this venture. Protecting this area more will only help protect and restore many of Maui's fragile and endangered species. By protecting and supporting native plants in this area we will also help protect the watershed of this region. This effect could lead to increased water shed flow over time by reforestation of Koa trees and other native vegetation. This could also lead to the reestablishment of native birds in this habitat especially the endangered Maui Parrotbill which could face extinction if more is not done to save this species. Akohekohe face a similar plight as the Maui Parrotbill. The increased protection from fencing and ungulate control will also help protect the small population of the Maui Alauahio already in this region. Many more species could also be protected by more help.

These are just a few reasons to support Nakula Natural Area Reserve. But most importantly I believe it is a moral obligation to help protect habitats and species that need help and protection.

Richard Aracil, Makawao, HI, April 29, 2010

Testimony in support of the proposed Nakula NAR.

My name is Richard Aracil, I live in Makawao. I'm here today to express my support for the proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve. Given the track record of the Natural Area Reserve System in preserving the ecosystems and organisms that make Hawaii one of the most biologically unique places in the world, I believe the creation of the Nakula NAR will be a step forward in preserving the unique biological legacy of Hawaii. As someone who works in the conservation field, I understand all too well the staggering losses of biodiversity and ecosystem function the Hawaiian Islands have suffered as a result of human activity. Establishing this NAR will set right some of the wrongs we have done to this land and preserve extremely rare ecosystems found nowhere else on the planet.

Managing natural resources wisely and sustainably for the benefit of all stakeholders is extremely important and this couldn't be more true on the tiny, isolated, archipelago that is the Hawaiian Islands. On Maui, water is often a scarce commodity especially on the leeward side of the island where water must often be imported. People having enough drinking water on these islands depends on watersheds covered by healthy forests. The Kahikinui area, being severely degraded by feral ungulates, outright habitat destruction, and our failure to be good stewards of the land, is no longer an effective watershed. We can help rectify this situation by reforesting this area and letting the native vegetation reestablish itself. The creation of Nakula NAR will go a long way in helping us achieve that goal. Mahalo.

Molly Brooke (Turner), Makawao, HI, April 30, 2010

Hello,

I feel that I must enter into the debate about closing forest area, including Nakula, to hunters.

Quite recently, the Maui Times ran a cover story reporting the overabundance of invasive wildlife on our island. It was my understanding from reading the article, that a lack of hunters is responsible for these invasives having gotten out of hand. They cited declining numbers of hunting licenses and "closed" lands where herds become large due to lack of predation. We recently bought 142 acres of land in Makawao--not really what you'd call pristine land, but the number of deer and pigs there is astounding. Yes, they are beautiful, but they are simply not supposed to be here.

People often equate hunting with anti-ecology. Information to the contrary is readily available, as culling is often necessary to keep even native species in check. Here on Maui, none of these species are native, and yet many of the plants they feed on are, and are in delicate balance.

The cultural and sustenance factors in favor of hunting should also be given proper weight. Taking away the areas where men are allowed this ancient practice seems just as much a conservation need as this flora/fauna one. Men without outlets are often trouble.

Please consider these factors when deciding the fate of hunting on public land.

Kaleo Padilla, Padilla Designs LLC, April 30, 2010

Please put my support for nAR of kahikinui!

Mahalo!

Joe Fell-McDonald, Kihei, HI, April 30, 2010

I fully support The proposed action to Have the portion of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve designated as A Natural Area Reserve. The area is small and has great potential for restoration and protection, I agree that some areas of the state should preserved for future generations as special untouched protection that the NARS program offers. Please consider designating this as the Nakula Reserve.

Forest & Kim Starr, Makawao, Maui, May 1, 2010

Aloha,

We support the DLNR proposal to protect the native plants and animals at Nakula on East Maui. Thanks.

Irene Newhouse, Kihei, HI, May 2, 2010

I saw the article on the proposed NAR in the Nakula area on Maui in the 4/30 Maui News, and I rolled my eyes again. I have lived in several different states, but in Hawaii the hunting lobby seems to have a disproportionate amount of power. I would therefore like to add my voice in counterweight to that of the hunters. My daily schedule does not usually allow me to testify in person, but even so, I was unaware of this particular meeting. I am all in favor of excluding feral livestock from as many acres in Hawaii as is at all possible. Their presence degrades the environment, and pigs are particularly destructive. Their roto-tilling greatly decreases the ability of the soil to absorb rain water. Thus, Hawaii's aquifers are not being recharged as they would have been. And this water that doesn't soak in, runs off - into the ocean - destroying all the ocean life that's sensitive to silt. The rototill areas create water pockets that let mosquitos breed, spreading avian malaria to Hawaii's endemic birds. I suppose I could take a sort of zen view - if left to their own devices, the greatgrandchildren of these nutters will not be able to live on Maui, as there won't be water or even topsoil for growing food. Likewise, the feral pigs will have eaten themselves out of house & home, after they created pockets that let another dengue infestation take hold & be impossible to eradicate, because this time, it could spread so much faster. It's not rocket science. Well, YOU know all that already.

I would also like to see someone tackle the 'subsistence hunting' argument. I am betting that few subsistence hunters live in a development like mine, where the CCR's prevent you from keeping live stock. So let's see - which is cheaper, raising a pig in your yard on a combination of purchased pig feed and household leftovers, [OK, you do have to invest in a fence, too] or having to buy a gun, ammunition, AND feed your hunting dogs? I would be MOST interested in such a comparison... It was certainly one that the pre-contact Hawaiians solved in favor of keeping their pigs penned at home! Let's face it, the subsistence hunting argument isn't about the money. It's about bashing around the forest killing pigs, goats, or deer. I've heard of hunting from ATV's, which tips the subsistence argument squarely into raising pigs in your yard, I'd think. ATV hunting should be completely forbidden, as ATVs probably rototill the ground almost as well as pigs.

It would be so much easier to convince people to do the right thing if the level of science & math education were better...

Ann Kobsa, PhD (Biology), Invasive Species Coordinator, Malama O Puna, April 2, 2010

Aloha,

I am writing to support the designation of Nakula Natural Area Reserve in the Kahikinui Forest Reserve on Maui. The value of this rare Koa forest and the many rare endemic plants and endangered birds and insects, and the habitat that this forest tract provides, is immeasurable. I am aware that the hunting lobby is pushing

against this NAR, but, in my opinion (and I am a Big Island pig hunter myself) the value of the koa forest far exceeds the value of the feral animals that live there, and those animals are a direct threat to those trees. Furthermore, my understanding is that the area will be fenced regardless of whether it is given NAR status. The nearly complete lack of funding for state forest reserve management means that without NAR status the koa trees will be prevented from regenerating and this land will be lost to the weeds. I would support any serious proposal for NAR designation made by the commission, as I feel that there is far too little land that enjoys meaningful protection. Mahalo nui loa.

Kerri Fay, Makawao, HI, May 3, 2010

Dear DLNR,

I wanted to give testimony as a citizen in support of the Nakula NAR proposal.

I have never been there myself, due to relatively impossible access, but I've heard stories of the rare plants and koa forest. It would be a shame if we didn't do something to protect this area. With predictions of climate change and habitat loss I am afraid we aren't doing enough to save what we have left. I'm concerned about the damage ungulates cause including browsing and erosion. If the area is a potential sight for parrotbill restoration we can't start protecting it soon enough!

I encourage the DLNR board to approve the NAR proposal, AND I encourage DLNR staff to develop a regional plan for state lands on the south slope of Haleakala that will provide for other public uses as well. Aloha.

Teya M. Penniman, Manager, Maui Invasive Species Committee, May 3, 2010

To the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

I am writing to support creation of the Nakula Natural Area Reserve on Maui. This area represents one of the most intact remnants of native forest, including koa stands, along with all the special native plants and animals found within it. The area proposed to be included in the NAR systems is small and, as I understand it, the management plan will not exclude continued hunting. As you know, DLNR has never had adequate resources given the scope of its management responsibilities. Protection of this special place, by inclusion in the NAR, will help preserve it for future generations and prevent the otherwise inevitable loss to erosion, overgrazing, and devastation by invasive species.

Thank you for your support on this important issue.

Chuck Chimera, Makawao, HI, May 3, 2010

Dear DLNR Chairperson,

I am writing in support of the designation of the Nakula Natural Area Reserve on the slopes of leeward Haleakala, Maui, and strongly urge you to approve its creation. As a Maui resident who now regularly hunts for deer and pigs on the weekends, I can fully appreciate the desire to keep hunting areas open to members of the public, especially for subsistence purposes in these difficult economic times.

As a biologist who did my graduate studies in the Kanaio Natural Area Reserve on the southern slopes of Maui, however, I can also appreciate the greater need to protect what little is left of Maui's fragile and vanishing leeward ecosystems, especially from the damage of feral goats, deer, pigs and cattle. The Natural Area Reserve System protects a very tiny, but extremely valuable portion of the island's dwindling biological and cultural heritage. Having spent an entire year studying the dry forest in the Kanaio NAR, I can speak from first hand experience of the positive difference that active management and protection makes, especially by a NARS staff as knowledgeable and committed as we have on this island.

As a former resource management employee at Haleakala National Park, I've also walked the fencelines in Kaupo Gap and have seen the huge difference that protection from goats can make; thick native shrublands on the park side of the fence versus a dry, grassy wasteland on the makai side. The same recovery could and will happen in the Nakula forest if the native plants are given a chance.

Even with the creation of the Nakula NAR, there will still be a sizable portion of the reserve, and other areas on Maui, left for public hunting, and there certainly will not be a shortage of goats to hunt on this island, at least not in my or anyone else's lifetime. Anyone who has spent any time up in the mountains on that side of

the island cannot help but notice the huge clouds of dust kicked up by the herds of goats running off in the distance.

The chance to protect one of the last remnants of leeward koa forest, however, is quickly disappearing every day that passes without fencing and management. That is why I strongly urge you, again, to approve the creation of the NAR and help preserve this precious resource for future generations. Mahalo for your time.

Laurie Strommer, Hilo, HI, May 3, 2010

Dear Chairperson Thielen and Board Members,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve. The proposed reserve is unique and valuable in several ways: 1) it would protect five different vegetation communities across an enormous 5600 foot elevation change, 2) it would allow for greater protection and more complete recovery of degraded leeward koa forests on Maui, 3) it has potential to be part of habitat for re-introduced and recovering native plant and bird populations as well as a refuge for native insects, and 4) NARS designation would likely enhance effective outcomes for the Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership. I have studied koa forest restoration on the Big Island and I can attest that koa forests recover reasonably quickly and can provide suitable conditions for a diverse understory as well as harbor populations of native forest bird species.

Additionally, I would like to comment on opportunities for recreational hunting. I believe there is sufficient acreage managed by DOFAW available for hunting without including the NAR. According to the proposal, very few hunters access this region anyway. Additionally, I would venture that those who are interested in hunting in the area might still be allowed access as part of the process of reducing ungulate impacts to allow restoration of the forest.

I hope the Board will approve the Proposed Nakula NAR.

Al Keali'i Chock, Lecturer of Botany, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Retired Foreign Service Specialist (Regional Director), U.S. Dept. of Agriculture-APHIS, May 3, 2010

TO the Board of Land & Natural Resources:

This e-mail is to add my plea to have Leeward Maui's last significant stand of koa (*Acacia koa*) forest designated as a natural area reserve. This endemic tree habitat needs to be protected. It is urgent that we do all that we can to preserve our Hawaiian biota. We've already lost a great deal, and we must save what we have left.

Aloha.

Sterling C. Keeley, Professor, Department of Botany, Honolulu, HI, May 3, 2010

Aloha,

Please support the formation of the Nakula NAR on Maui. This is the last native area of Koa and one that while somewhat degraded still contains native species of both plants and animals. Without protection this area will certainly be lost and with it one of the very few remaining pieces of native habitat on the island. NAR status will allow us all to know and appreciate Maui's special plants and animals in a way not possible without specific preservation designation.

Heather Cole, Kamuela, HI, May 3, 2010

Gentlemen:

I was born and raised on Maui, and I care deeply about the remaining native plant communities. Please give serious consideration to the proposed Nakula NAR. The Kahikinui native plant recovery has been considerable with the work that has been done. The proposed NAR would make a huge difference to the restoration of this remnant koa forest. It is critical that every remnant of good, regenerating native forest be given every chance of survival.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Cole

Janice Palma-Glennie, Kailua-Kona HI, May 3, 2010

Aloha,

As a past Maui resident (now living in Kona), I know the island and how it's changed since I lived there 20 years ago. Because of this, I strongly support the proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve (NAR) in the Kahikinui Forest Reserve being set aside. This area is biologically significant and supports a large number of endemic Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems, including the increasingly rare Leeward Haleakala Koa Forest.

Though I respect the desire and need for some residents to hunt, a balance must be struck between that and protecting natural resources. The proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve on Maui will protect increasingly rare leeward Haleakala koa forest, provide safe habitat for endemic Hawaiian plants and animals, and significantly enhance conservation efforts in the region.

Please use your wisdom and position to help secure at least this small area of beauty and natural integrity for future generations.

Mahalo.

Cliff Morden, May 3, 2010

I am writing in support of the proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve in the Kahikinui Forest Reserve on the South Slope of Haleakala, Maui. This area is significant for its rare endemic plants in the area, the forest birds that inhabit them, and the diversity of this ecosystem. The koa forests of this vicinity are being pushed toward elimination, and it is necessary to do something to halt the loss of the valuable asset. These habitats have traditionally been the ones that have taken the brunt of expansion and as a consequence are the first ones lost. They are also among the more diverse forest systems, thus protecting this biodiversity will provide a safe habitat for the animals and plants to survive in. As further conservation measures are instituted, this refuge may be an important source of the biodiversity needed to extend the range of species, both plant and animal, in these efforts.

Tlalo Tokuda, Kailua-Kona, HI, May 3, 2010

Dear Ms E Yuen,

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) proposes a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. I totally support your choice. These are the reasons why I support your choice:

- * The purpose of the state Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) is to "preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the native flora and fauna, as well as geologic sites, of Hawai'i."
- * The proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve on Maui, consisting of approximately 1,500 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve on the south slope of Haleakala, will protect increasingly rare leeward Haleakala koa forest, provide safe habitat for endemic Hawaiian plants and animals, and significantly enhance conservation efforts in the region.
- * The proposed Nakula NAR is likely ceded land, set aside by the Hawaiian sovereign because of its importance to the Hawaiian people, and deserves the strongest protection we can provide in order to protect the koa forest and its inhabitants for future generations.
- * Protecting and managing the Nakula NAR for the koa forest and its inhabitants is the highest and best use of this land.
- * This area has been hammered for many decades by introduced browsing and grazing mammals, and invasive plants, yet significant native forests and species remain. Management and protection of these public trust resources will be facilitated by designation of the Nakula NAR.
- * There are many areas where introduced goats can be managed for public hunting, but Nakula is Maui's largest remaining leeward koa forest.
- * The endangered Nene (Hawaiian goose) has been observed in the area, and the rocky subalpine uplands are potential nesting sites for the endangered 'Ua'u (Hawaiian Petrel). The endangered 'Opea'ape'a (Hawaiian Hoary Bat) is also a likely resident of the area.
- * The area has been proposed as a reintroduction site for native Hawaiian birds, such as the endangered Maui Parrotbill, Maui 'Alauahio, and 'Akohekohe. The Recovery Plan for Endangered Hawaiian Forest Birds states that a continuous "lei" or ring of suitable forest should be reconnected around Haleakala, especially at upper elevations where mosquitoes are rare.

- * The proposed Nakula NAR also provides habitat for other native birds, such as the Kolea, Pueo, 'Apapane, and 'Amakihi.
- * At least 20 species of rare plants have been reported from the proposed Nakula NAR or adjacent lands with similar habitat; 8 of these are listed as endangered, including an endangered Ko'oko'olau (*Bidens micrantha* ssp. *kaleaha*), an endangered 'Ohawai (*Clermontia lindseyana*), an endangered Hawaiian Geranium, Nohoanu (*Geranium multiflorum*), and endangered 'Ahinahina (Haleakala Silversword).
- * The proposed Nakula NAR is adjacent to federally designated Critical Habitat for plants that have similar habitat types.

Mark Ingoglia, *Hawaii resident and tax payer, May 4, 2010*

Emma,

Just a quick note of support for the subject proposed NAR. As a public citizen, I'd like to express my growing concern for the last of stands our native forest, and full support for proposed Nakula NAR. Having see first-hand what feral goats have done to Kalalau, despite hunting, we need to get what's left of our native forests protected from goats, sheep and other invasive animals and plants.

While I have an appreciation for those that want to hunt on public property, I have found that the hunters have not provided sufficient pressure to control these very foreign animals, and they have done much damage to public and private property and natural resouecres.

Please express my full support for this proposed NAR!

Mahalo.

Joseph O. Ward, *Field Technician II, Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve, Maui Land & Pineapple Co., Inc., Lahaina, HI, May 4, 2010*

Aloha,

I'm writing this email to support the establishment of the Nakula Natural Area Reserve, to be located on the leeward slope of Haleakala. The whole mountain has been so drastically denuded by animals (cows, goats, and deer) that most people don't even realize that the fields and pastures that they now see were once a lush ancient forest that has been clearcut by overgrazing. It's not much to ask that a tiny portion of what's left be set aside, not only for future generations but also to preserve some fragments of the biodiversity that this unique forest holds. As an example of this I would recommend a visit to the Auwahi restoration exclosures that Art Medeiros and his crews have worked so hard on reforesting. This type of dryland forest, when properly protected, has shown an amazing ability to rebound. It does, however, require protection and it is within our grasp to protect it...it now falls to you to make this critical decision. Will you please save this small bit of native Hawai'i? Or would you allow a small but very vocal special interest group (hunters, one of which I am also, by the way) to have their way so that the animals which range all over the mountain can finish off the destruction of the last remnants of the beauty which was once native Hawai'i? Please do the right thing and vote to set aside Nakula as a NAR. If you don't, then you're basically signing the death warrant for this remnant of a once grand forest. Thank you for your time.

Joan Lander, *Na'alehu, HI, May 4, 2010*

Aloha mai,

I am writing in support of the proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve in the Kahikinui Forest Reserve.

Please protect what's left of this mauka area to prevent the same ecological mistakes that destroyed forests on other islands.

We have so little left.

Mahalo.

Daniel H. Tanaka, *Field Technician, Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve, Maui Land & Pineapple Co., Inc., Lahaina, HI, May 4, 2010*

I read in the Maui News that DLNR is asking for 1,500 acres to protect and make an exclosure. The article read that the Kahikinui Forest Reserve is 110,000 acres. Many old time hunters were upset and are against

the proposal, saying that it would affect how much game there is. 1,500 of 110,000 acres is less than 1% of the total area. I know that many people feed their families with hunting from Kahikinui, but less than 1% of the area the DLNR is asking for. I don't think that small enclosure would have a substantial impact on the wild game populations. I support the proposal of building an enclosure to protect Nakula. I know that the proposal is based on sound knowledge of the area and the habitat needs to be protected for the endangered plants, birds and bats.

Leslie M. Agorastos, Kamuela, HI, May 4, 2010

Gentlemen,

Nakula forest should definitely be made a part of the natural area reserve system. I am a hunter. I was first licensed when I was 12. I have hunted ever since. I love hunting. However, there is something infinitely more important here.

Our native forests are dwindling, while pigs, goats, sheep, deer, and wild cattle are proliferating. We absolutely must protect what is left of this native forest. There are many places to hunt. We have few areas of protected and thriving forest, especially on the leeward slopes of Haleakala.

Please make Nakula a part of the natural area reserve system. No other designation can actually restore our forest.

Aloha.

Jeanne Lindgren, May 4, 2010

Aloha,

Please note my support of the Nakula NAR:

The purpose of the state Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) is to "preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the native flora and fauna, as well as geologic sites, of Hawai'i."

- * The proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve on Maui, consisting of approximately 1,500 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve on the south slope of Haleakala, will protect increasingly rare leeward Haleakala koa forest, provide safe habitat for endemic Hawaiian plants and animals, and significantly enhance conservation efforts in the region.
- * The proposed Nakula NAR is likely ceded land, set aside by the Hawaiian sovereign because of its importance to the Hawaiian people, and deserves the strongest protection we can provide in order to protect the koa forest and its inhabitants for future generations.
- * Protecting and managing the Nakula NAR for the koa forest and its inhabitants is the highest and best use of this land.
- * This area has been hammered for many decades by introduced browsing and grazing mammals, and invasive plants, yet significant native forests and species remain. Management and protection of these public trust resources will be facilitated by designation of the Nakula NAR.
- * **There are many areas where introduced goats can be managed for public hunting, but Nakula is Maui's largest remaining leeward koa forest.**
- * The endangered Nene (Hawaiian goose) has been observed in the area, and the rocky subalpine uplands are potential nesting sites for the endangered 'Ua'u (Hawaiian Petrel). The endangered 'Opea'ape'a (Hawaiian Hoary Bat) is also a likely resident of the area.
- * The area has been proposed as a reintroduction site for native Hawaiian birds, such as the endangered Maui Parrotbill, Maui 'Alauahio, and 'Akohekohe. The Recovery Plan for Endangered Hawaiian Forest Birds states that a continuous "lei" or ring of suitable forest should be reconnected around Haleakala, especially at upper elevations where mosquitoes are rare.
- * The proposed Nakula NAR also provides habitat for other native birds, such as the Kolea, Pueo, 'Apapane, and 'Amakihi.
- * At least 20 species of rare plants have been reported from the proposed Nakula NAR or adjacent lands with similar habitat; 8 of these are listed as endangered, including an endangered Ko'oko'olau (*Bidens micrantha* ssp. *kaleaha*), an endangered 'Ohawai (*Clermontia lindseyana*), an endangered Hawaiian Geranium, Nohoanu (*Geranium multiflorum*), and endangered 'Ahinahina (Haleakala Silversword).
- * The proposed Nakula NAR is adjacent to federally designated Critical Habitat for plants that have similar habitat types.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Nick Agorastos, May 4, 2010

To: Ms. Laura Thielen, Chairperson BLNR,

I was born and raised on the island of Maui. I come from a kama`aina ranching family with many ties to this beautiful land. I am a hunter as well. I supplement my families food with wild game from many of our public trust lands. I do this because I love hunting and eating wild game, but more importantly to help reduce impacts to our native ecosystems.

I write to you today because I am in full support of designating the proposed area as Nakula NAR. The region though much degraded is biologically unique, many species currently and historically found here occur nowhere else. Despite degradation, this area regionally also lacks many shade adapted forest weeds and non-native mosquitoes. This and the dominance of quick growing canopy species koa creates a scenario favoring quick dramatic recovery potential not only for plants but also for rare honeycreepers. Designation of this area as the Nakula NAR is the ONLY likely way for this forest to survive the next century. The State [and its Territorial predecessor] Forestry Division have had management responsibility for Nakula for over 80 years "Benign neglect" of the area has allowed a once lush forest to decline to the point where it is in real danger of vanishing. Deforestation, erosion, and topsoil loss will take years to reverse. Designation as a NAR will facilitate protective management of a small tract containing the most intact remnant of forest, and will provide added impetus to other conservation efforts in the region.

A NAR designation does not "close" the area to the public, just places greater importance on the protection of native natural resources. Between the Departments of Land & Natural Resources and Hawaiian Homelands, The State of Hawaii controls a VAST amount of land in this region.

There are plenty of other places where it is appropriate for herds of goats to be maintained for public hunting.

Leeward Maui's last significant stand of Koa forest is not one of those places!

I am Hopeful the BLNR board will make a decision that supports the responsible management of public trust resources, and I encourage the BLNR to approve the NAR proposal and forward to the Governor, AND to direct staff to develop a regional plan for State lands on the southern slope of Haleakala that provides for other public uses as well. A "hunters vs. conservationists" conflict is not the issue here; DLNR could implement some relatively simple fixes that would benefit all interests.

Andrea Buckman, Makawao, HI, May 5, 2010

Aloha no,

I would like to provide testimony as an individual in support of the designation of a portion of Kahikinui Forest Reserve as a Natural Area Reserve. I think protecting what's left of the koa forests and native natural resources on leeward Haleakala is extremely important. There is an opportunity to do it now before what's left is lost to feral animals and erosion. I believe conservation and state organizations can find ways to work with the hunter community and find solutions that work for most. Inconvenience for a few does not justify loss of these irreplaceable resources.

Best wishes to DLNR, I truly believe in this project and congratulate the State for their efforts to protect our native natural resources.

Adam Radford, May 6, 2010

To whom it may concern,

I am sending this email in support of the creation of a Nakula Natural Area Reserve (NAR) on Maui. I have spent a fair amount of time in this area and have seen the devastating impacts of feral ungulates and lack of resources management. I believe that the without proper management the loss of Maui's last significant stand of Koa forest and along with it other native species is assured. There are many other areas on Maui where public hunting, uncontrolled access, and ungulates are acceptable. They are not however ideal for the proposed NAR. I hope that you will make a decision that best reflects responsible management of public trust resources. Thank you.

Paul F. Fasi, Kula, HI, May 6, 2010

TO: the Board of Land and Natural Resources

In regards to the above matter, the environmental assessment that was purportedly done should NOT have anticipated a FONSI. This is unacceptable and flawed. The proposed NAR will definitely have far reaching impacts with unintended consequences.

Further more, the proposed action requires an EIS per Ch. 343 HRS and NOT an EA. Without an EIS, the proposed action is illegal. The DLNR is violating the very laws of which it is entrusted by the public to enforce. The proposed action is simply wrong.

I am appealing to the BLNR to correct this misguided attempt by the DLNR. Please recommend denial of the proposed action.

Thank you.

Chris Farmer, Volcano, HI, May 7, 2010

Dear Chairperson Thielen – I am writing to strongly SUPPORT the creation of the Nakula Natural Area Reserve. Nakula will increase the protection of the leeward koa forest on Haleakala, and better safeguard the associated habitats for numerous endemic plants and animals. There are at least eight endangered plants within this area, and numerous other rare plants and animals are found within the proposed Natural Area Reserve. This area could also serve as a potential reintroduction site for the highly endangered Maui Parrotbill. The transfer would also facilitate the protection of these valuable acres from the severe detrimental effects of the exotic, non-native grazing mammals that are currently present. Transferring these 1,500 acres from the Forest Reserve to the Natural Area Reserve system would provide for the highest and best use of this land owned by all Hawaiians. Thank you for acting in the interests of all the citizens of Hawai'i.

Monroe Bryce, Pukalani, HI, May 8, 2010

I would like to write to express my support of the proposal to create a new Nakula NAR. I am very familiar with the area having hunted there frequently in the late eighties and early nineties. I am also well aware of the damage done by feral goats and pigs, having seen a similar situation in the upper parts of the Kula forest reserve hunting areas. I believe that it is very important to direct more resources towards protecting what remains of the forest and promote its recovery in order to protect biodiversity, promote a healthy watershed, reduce damage to the reef caused by erosion and siltation, and for many other reasons. I would also like to mention that while attending the public hearing in Kula on April 28th I was not impressed with the manner in which the presenters of the information addressed the concerns of the crowd and by not presenting relevant information invited unnecessary opposition to this proposal. Many of the statements coming from the crowd were in opposition to the state's inability to provide access to recreational public hunting and the attendees were not clearly informed of the purpose of the public hearing and the implications of either converting part of the Kahikinui forest reserve into a new NAR or not converting it to a NAR. Also, by not including lay-person information about why protecting the Kahikinui forest and its rare inhabitants is important, the presenters also wasted a perfectly good opportunity to educate the public as to why this area is more valuable to our community as a natural area reserve than as a hunting area. I happen to strongly agree that the state should be doing more to secure public access to recreational hunting and would happily attend any public meeting held to discuss that subject in the future, but as for the creation of a new Nakula NAR, I vote yes. Signed Monroe Bryce, Pukalani HI 96788

Matt Wordeman, President, Friends of Haleakala National Park, May 9, 2010

To Whom it may concern:

The Friends of Haleakala National Park board of directors has had the opportunity to review the April 2010 DLNR proposal for the Nakula Natural Area Reserve. At our May 4, 2010 meeting, the board agreed to support the DLNR proposal. We agree that protection of the proposed area including fencing out and removing ungulates will provide significant benefits to an important portion of the native Hawaiian ecosystem. Added protection for Nakula will preserve rare and endangered wildlife which might be extinguished without careful management. Losing them forever from lack of care is the possible threat. By

its proximity, directly adjacent to Haleakala National Park, we feel that the NAR designation and subsequent protection and improvement of this area will also benefit Haleakala National Park by providing a buffer against the introduction of invasive species into the Park. Furthermore, the restoration of the NAR, either by natural means by keeping out ungulates, or by human aid such as reforestation efforts with native plants will benefit Haleakala National Park, the Hawaii Forest Reserve and the Nakula NAR by preserving a portion of the native Hawaiian environment for appreciation by present and future generations.

The Friends of Haleakala National Park(FHNP) is a 501c3 organization with a mission to promote, protect and improve Haleakala National Park in a manner that is consistent with the mission of the National Park System. We are governed by a 7 member Board of Directors. For more information about FHNP, please visit our website at fhnp.org

Bruce Faulkner, May 9, 2010

I am writing you to voice my strong opposition to the change in designation of State Forest Reserve land to the Natural Area Reserve. I am against this "taking" of public land.

As documented in the Friday April 30, 2010 issue of the Maui News story page A3 2nd column which covered the public hearing on this issue;

"By a show of hands, nearly all of the 70 people who attended Wednesday night's meeting indicated their opposition to the plan to include Nakula in the state's reserve system."

Having attended this meeting I would say that 90% of those who were at the meeting were local people. I am wondering if this meeting is one of those "cooked deals" where by the state has no intention to listen to the people and plans on following their own agenda regardless of what the people want.

Like the other folks in attendance, I do not want to see this change in designation. The majority of the general public does not want to see this change in designation. So please make the right decision and leave it designated state Forestry Reserve land. The state can do anything that NARs wants to do, but with less restrictions for public use! We need more public land for public use. Aloha.

Hank Oppenheimer, May 9, 2010

Aloha,

I would like to voice my strong support for the creation of the Nakula Natural Area reserve, on leeward Haleakala, Maui.

This area has been in decline for far too long, and creation of a NAR would allow this unique, remnant koa forest to recover. The area has been essentially landlocked and inaccessible to the public since the return of lands to the west to DHHL, and all but a very few hunters have had access; the feral goat damage is extreme, and demands action as soon as possible. NAR status would be the logical first step.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Hank Oppenheimer

The opinion expressed here is strictly my own.

John C. Norman, Kihei, HI, May 9, 2010

"I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system."
Mahalo.

Hillary Richards, Haiku, HI, May 9, 2010

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system.

Our natural resources are some of our most valuable treasures on Maui. We need to stop and think before we allow more native forests to be lost.

Diane E. Norman, Kihei, HI, May 9, 2010

Aloha.

I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system."
Mahalo.

Patience Gaia, Kihei, HI, May 9, 2010

Aloha,

I am writing to request that you support the proposal to create a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. Without the added fencing and plant management this designation would provide, the work that has been not in this general area will be at risk of destruction from the non-native wild goats and hogs.
Mahalo.

John and Mary Hight, Kihei, HI, May 9, 2010

I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system,

Foster Radford, Kihei, HI, May 9, 2010

Please support and vote for the Nakula Natural Area Reserve (NAR) in the Kahikinui Forest Reserve on the south slope of Haleakala, Maui. This is so much more than just a forest. These trees represent the people, a way of life and a wood that has become synonymous with the Hawaiian culture. Your support is needed.

Jenny-Li Helsen DVM, Haiku, HI, May 9, 2010

"I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system."

Peter Black, Kula, HI, May 9, 2010

Aloha DLNR,

I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system. If we don't begin aggressive means of saving our natural heritage we will have none left by the time our great grandkids are grown up. This is your responsibility to do the right thing for them and future generations
Aloha.

Kalia Kelmenson, Haiku, HI, May 9, 2010

"I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system."
Thank you for your consideration

Lindsey B. Abreu, Kihei, HI, May 9, 2010

"I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system."
Mahalo.

Katie Romanchuk, May 9, 2010

Dear DLNR Board and Governor Lingle

I am a Haiku resident of Maui and am very concerned about our Hawaiian plants becoming rare or disappearing from our islands like so many have already. I am writing to urge you to support the NAR proposal to protect leeward Maui's LAST SIGNIFICANT KOA FOREST in the Nakula Area Reserve. This is not about hunters versus conservationists. They both can be accommodated and there can be a designated area put aside for goat or other hunting, but please not in a fragile Maui ecosystem that is already threatened by invasive species of animals and plants, and erosion. This area with the most in tact Koa trees has potential to be resurrected to a healthy native forest, and we have SO LITTLE left. Koa is the King of the Forest according to Hawaiian tradition and must be preserved and honored. Koa trees form habitat to about 100 native insects and several native birds as well as other native plants. This is a place where we have a chance to bring it all back, with some loving care and smart planning. But if it is not preserved now, we will never have this opportunity again. Please respect the heritage of Hawaii and honor the Koa trees. Last chance! I understand written testimony must be received by tomorrow, May 10.

Thank you for listening, Aloha, Katie Romanchuk

Stephanie Seidman, Kula, HI, May 9, 2010

Dear DLNR Chairperson and Governor Lingle,

Please support the creation of a Natural Area Reserve at Nakula, Maui. Nakula is a biologically unique section of land where many species currently and historically found here occur nowhere else on Maui. The Forestry Division has had 80 years to manage this area and has done little to nothing to protect the area or manage it as a forestry /game management unit. As a lifelong resident of Maui who has been a hunter since the age of five (five) I am aware that there is no access to this area and most likely will never be access to this area since it is landlocked and surrounded by private owners who do not want to be liable for public hunting. By designating this area as a natural area reserve it will be given the deserved resources necessary to properly manage and maintain this very important koa forest, which is likely to vanish without help. Please do the right thing and make Nakula Forest a Natural Area Reserve.

Mahalo.

R. Greg Czar, Managing member, F.A.R.E. Feral Animal Removal Experts LLC., Kula, HI, May 9, 2010

Dear DLNR Chairperson,

Please support the creation of a Natural Area Reserve at Nakula, Maui. Speaking as a life long hunter growing up in Kula Maui. I feel that the rewards of designating this portion of the Kahikinui forest reserve into the NAR system will be appreciated for generations to come. I first hunted this area in the mid 1980's and have seen a drastic decline in the native understory and the rapid deterioration of the mature forest canopy due to feral ungulates. I have participated in helicopter assisted cattle drives bringing wild stock back on to the adjacent ranches, ground culling of wild cattle and helped in some of the conservation efforts that have taken place in the area. Over the years I have witnessed the goat population in the area explode to populations that even regular hunting would not impact if general access becomes possible. I have gained access to the area with a working relationship with Haleakala Ranch, DHHL and Nu'u Mauka Ranch. Because of the locations that I can enter the forest reserve from, I have had the opportunity to hunt the entire forest reserve. The type of forest that remains here is like no other on Maui. Something must be done to protect this unique gem for many generations to come, not just the animals that are steadily devouring it and the few privileged enough to have access. The portion of the forest to be protected is just a small section of what DLNR has responsibility for. It is only fair to give the NAR a chance to manage a piece of what Forestry and Wildlife has failed to do anything productive with. Other areas of the NAR have shown their ability to recover and thrive under the hands on management of their staff. There will always be areas to hunt and manage hunting for sport, food and cultural reasons, but once this Koa forest is gone we will never get it back. Please approve of the proposed Natural Area Reserve in Nakula Maui. I sure do.

Mahalo nui.

Kim Harter, Haiku, HI, May 9, 2010

Aloha,

I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system. It is home to many endangered and rare native bird and plant species. It is part of a continuous "lei" or ring of high elevation land with suitable forest necessary for the recovery of endangered Hawaiian Forest birds. Please take the necessary steps to do the right thing to protect this precious Maui resource. Mahalo for your careful consideration of this important matter.

John Naylor, Makawao, HI, May 9, 2010

Aloha Dlnr,

I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system. In the process of clearing feral animals and fencing the reserve, please use Maui hunters and Maui workers! Mahalo.

Gary Schooley, Makawao HI, May 10, 2010

Aloha Dlnr,

I'm a supporter of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining Koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it.

This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system. This very special area is biologically significant and supports a large number of endemic Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems, including the increasingly rare Leeward Haleakala Koa Forest. The proposed Nakula NAR is likely ceded land, set aside by the Hawaiian sovereign because of its importance to the Hawaiian people, and deserves the strongest protection we can provide in order to protect the koa forest and its inhabitants for future generations. Mahalo.

Helen Felsing, Honolulu, HI, May 10, 2010

Thank you for all the hard work you do to care for Hawaii's natural resources. I hope a next major step will be your approval of the proposal to establish a new fenced NAR on the Kahikinui slopes.

With advancing climate change we more than ever need to protect large chunks of landscape to help preserve the diversity of our native species--rare lifeforms already so damaged and depleted that they cannot possibly hang on without our active protection. The native assets of the Nakula area are significant—they have attracted ardent efforts from Maui citizens for years—and they can grow and expand if DLNR is able to make the brave decision to set this area aside in NAR status.

I know hunting is a huge and difficult issue, and hunters are a hard constituency to antagonize, but at some point these hard decisions need to be made in favor of the children who will inherit this earth. If not now, when?--when all the hunters have died? The plants will be dead by then too. If not you, who?--our grandchildren? At the rate we're going, there won't be any nature left for them to protect, and they will be asking us some hard questions indeed.

Please do the right thing, and protect the Nakula portion of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve. Thank you in advance for your courage, and thank you again for your willingness to do the daily grind as a public official serving to protect Hawaii's nature.

Agna Pang, May 10, 2010

I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system.

Michelle Steuermann, May 10, 2010

Dear DLNR Board and Governor Lingle

I am an Ulupalakua resident of Maui and am very concerned about our Hawaiian plants becoming rare or disappearing from our islands like so many have already. I am writing to urge you to support the NAR proposal to protect leeward Maui's LAST SIGNIFICANT KOA FOREST in the Nakula Area Reserve. This is not about hunters versus conservationists. They both can be accommodated and there can be a designated area put aside for goat or other hunting, but please not in a fragile Maui ecosystem that is already threatened by invasive species of animals and plants, and erosion. This area with the most in tact Koa trees has potential to be resurrected to a healthy native forest, and we have SO LITTLE left. Koa is the King of the Forest according to Hawaiian tradition and must be preserved and honored. Koa trees form habitat to about 100 native insects and several native birds as well as other native plants. This is a place where we have a chance to bring it all back, with some loving care and smart planning. But if it is not preserved now, we will never have this opportunity again. Please respect the heritage of Hawaii and honor the Koa trees. Last chance!

Thank you for listening,

Aloha.

Melissa Chimera, Makawao, HI, May 10, 2010

Dear DLNR Chairperson,

Please approve the creation of the Nakula Natural Area Reserve in Kahikinui, Maui. As a lifelong Hawaii resident born and raised on the island of Oahu, I have seen how the lack of management can lead to the loss of our native ecosystems. As a graduate in environmental studies from the University of Hawaii, I have dedicated my professional career to protecting what is left of our unique plants and animals, and continue to do so as the volunteer coordinator with the National Park Service.

As an artist and resident of Maui, I look to our native forests for inspiration, and have used our rare flora as the subject matter for many of my oil paintings. Please ensure that the unique koa ecosystems will not only be protected from the damage caused by feral goats and other ungulates, but will be given the opportunity to recover and persist so that future generations of Hawaii's residents will also be able to appreciate and look to them for inspiration. We have lost too much of our native forests already, and cannot afford to sacrifice any more. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ian Cole, May 10, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the proposed addition of the Nakula forest section of the Kahikinui FR into the Natural Area Reserve system. It seems that the highest level of protection should be given to this remnant of a once vast forest of southern Haleakala under the current management by DOFAW feral ungulates have been allowed to run unchecked and unmanaged by state staff or hunters. Having visited this area and seeing the damage caused by invasive animals I understand the need to stop the further degradation to the remaining forest there. Time, money and desire are often limited when management of such a remote place is needed, knowing the commitment of the Maui NARS staff gives me hope that this once great forest will grow again with the right management strategies and effort. As are many areas in Hawaii this is a unique and irreplaceable ecosystem and if we are to be stewards of this land we need to act the part and facilitate the highest level of protection. Please facilitate this addition to the NAR system as it is of high value in conservation and too remote for other use.

Erin Deeny, Kula, HI, May 10, 2010

"I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system."

Wendy Swee, Kula, Maui, May 10, 2010

Dear DLNR Board,

Though I wasn't able to attend the public hearing, I support the creation of a Natural Area Reserve at Nakula. I do not hunt, and although I understand the need to have areas for cultural and subsistence hunting, I think we all know that there is no shortage of goats, pigs, and deer on Maui, and that our dryland forests are a threatened ecosystem. I believe Haleakala was the first national park to be fenced off and goats eradicated. Any photo along the fenceline shows a dramatic difference in vegetation. The small tract of land at Nakula considered for a NAR has relatively intact koa forest (practically Leeward Haleakala's last stand), and such a designation would serve to support other conservation efforts in the area. Please help to preserve the plants and animals of Hawaiian dryland forests that exist nowhere else on Earth!

Mahalo.

Malia Elsner, Kula, HI, May 10, 2010

Aloha Dlnr,

I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system.

In the process of clearing feral animals and fencing the reserve, please use Maui hunters and Maui workers! Mahalo.

Martha E. Martin, Paia, HI, May 10, 2010

As a Maui resident for over 40 years, I treasure the island. I believe that saving the remaining native hawaiian species is vital. They are what make Hawaii unique.

Please act to protect the forest surviving in Nakula. The rare animals and plants living there need protection from invasive species. so that they will not disappear. Designation of Nakula as a Natural Area Reserve can protect it.

The DLNR can also protect Hawaii's heritage by planning ways to use the state lands on Haleakala. Areas like Nakula merit special control. Other parts, which have lost most of the native plants and animals, can be managed for public hiking, camping, and hunting.

Please change Nakula into a NAR, to help restore some of Hawaii's native forests.

Aloha.

Lucrezia Oddie, May 10, 2010

Dear DLNR Board and Governor Lingle

I feel I couldn't word this message better than Katie Romanchuk did, so I am sending you her letter because these are also my sentiments.

I am a Haiku resident of Maui and am very concerned about our Hawaiian plants becoming rare or disappearing from our islands like so many have already. I am writing to urge you to support the NAR proposal to protect leeward Maui's LAST SIGNIFICANT KOA FOREST in the Nakula Area Reserve. This is not about hunters versus conservationists. They both can be accommodated and there can be a designated area put aside for goat or other hunting, but please not in a fragile Maui ecosystem that is already threatened by invasive species of animals and plants, and erosion. This area with the most in tact Koa trees has potential to be resurrected to a healthy native forest, and we have SO LITTLE left. Koa is the King of the Forest according to Hawaiian tradition and must be preserved and honored. Koa trees form habitat to about 100 native insects and several native birds as well as other native plants. This is a place where we have a chance to bring it all back, with some loving care and smart planning. But if it is not preserved now, we will never have this opportunity again. Please respect the heritage of Hawaii and honor the Koa trees. Last chance!

I understand written testimony must be received by today, May 10.

Thank you for considering this.

Kelly Janes, Haiku, HI, May 10, 2010

Please vote in favor of protection of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve.

A very important quote to remember published in the book Hawaiian Healing Plants, by David Leonard:

"Historically, 75% of all United States extinctions are native Hawaiian plants and animals. Almost half of the species currently on the U.S. Endangered Species list are native Hawaiian. Half of our native Hawaiian birds are extinct. Half of those left alive are endangered. Thirty percent of our fish in our Hawaiian coral reefs exist nowhere else on earth. When these species are gone they are gone forever."

I have raised cows and goats for many years. The damage from one goat can happen so quickly they can destroy a tree in the course of a day I have seen it. I had chestnuts 14 trees planted for five years and the 2 goats bent the fences in and took the trees down. This is not unusual and is expected. Most people have goats to clear areas. They will clear the reserve. As for cows these areas will also be disturbed for life and it will happen very quickly. Cows will graze anything medicinal, full of nitrogen taking choice plants first. they will then graze on to lower quality plants dissappear as they have eaten choice materials and within in ten years or less this area will be left looking like a range land desert. The original imprint of this forest reserve will be hard to find.

Protecting the aina, I hear these words, and what it means to me is keep what little maui has left of these protected areas. There will always be hunters, and people who want to range their animals. And I am sympathetic to these requests, however, if these activities are allowed within one generation this forest will be lost. Please hold on to what beauty, wildness and a very important seed stock which are the plants of maui to be able to return and grow on this island.

Truthfully, my desire is to see this land become a true "bio reserve" with a long term protection plan which supports the enhancement of this beautiful Island we call Maui.
Aloha.

Shannon Paapanen, Paia, HI, May 10, 2010

Dear DLNR Board and Governor Lingle:

The creation of the Nakula Natural Area Reserve is an exciting opportunity to save Leeward Maui's last significant stand of koa forest for future generations. This relatively small area that is rich in biodiversity and home to many species of plants and birds that are currently and historically found nowhere else could respond quite dramatically to this restoration effort.

I understand hunters' concerns about reduced access and feel this can be worked out, as there are plenty of public lands where herds of goats can be maintained for public hunting.
I live and work on Maui and am excited about one day seeing these koa forests restored.

Carl Martin, May 10, 2010

Dear DLNR Board,

I am writing to voice my support for protecting the proposed Nakua natural area reserve. The few remaining Koa forests need all the help and protection they can get. Goats are a dime a dozen and can be hunted elsewhere. There is no shortage in that department! It is in our greater interest to protect the few remaining native forests! I would encourage you to move forward with protecting the proposed reserve.
Mahalo for your time and consideration, Carl Martin

Ruth Levin, Volcano, HI, May 10, 2010

Subject: NARS on Leeward Maui

Important and I support it!

Daniel Grantham, Haiku, HI, May 10, 2010

I support the NAR proposal for Nakula.

The conservation benefits are obvious for native species that have disappeared in so many other areas.

My understanding is there is very little hunting in this area because it is so remote and difficult to get to. We do not have a shortage of areas where invasive ungulates of interest to hunters are thriving. Gardens and taro patches in our area of Huelo are being overrun by wild pigs, for example.

Please give our native plants and animals a little breathing room.
Thank you.

Thane and Linda Pratt, Volcano, HI, May 10, 2010

To: DLNR Chairperson:

We support the addition of Nakula, Maui to the Natural Area Reserve System. The area is important because it supports remnant native mesic forest and populations of native forest birds and endangered plants. One of us (Thane) has hiked through adjacent Manawainui conducting bird and rare plant surveys and is generally familiar with this area. He recalls being with Maui naturalist Mahealani Kaiaokamalie when he rediscovered the last few plants of the endangered native lobelia, *Cyanea obtusa*, deep in a fern filled gulch. Apparently this is just one of many rare plant species found in the Kahikinui Forest Reserve of which Nakula is part.

Protection of Nakula is important to the potential recovery of the forests on the leeward slopes of Haleakala. While we live on the Big Island, we recognize the value of protecting representative examples of biodiversity on all the islands.

We respectfully request that Nakula be added to the Natural Area Reserve System.

Dr. Lee Altenberg, May 10, 2010

Dear DLNR Chair,

The proposal to make Nakula on Maui into a Natural Reserve Area is not only very welcome, but is long overdue and should be given the greatest support.

Jonathan Keyser, Kula, HI, May 10, 2010

I, Jonathan Keyser am writing today in support of the proposed Nakula NAR. I just read the proposal as it appears on the DLNR website and I read the Maui News article, "Hunters take aim at plan to preserve forest". The news article prompted me to show my support. I was not able to attend the public meeting but it appears that the hunters were there in force and largely disapprove of the Nakula NAR plan. It sounds like hunters fear they will lose out by having a section of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve under protection of the NARS. To me this public showing sounds to have been extremely one-sided and as though the hunters were fed false information before the public hearing.

I am a supporter of hunting for sustenance and for cultural continuity. I have many friends that are hunters and several that have hunted the area specifically. I am also an advocate for the protection of native ecosystems. I own and operate a nursery that provides native plant material to restoration efforts both public and private. In November of '09 I had the chance to see the proposed area when I volunteered with Bryon Stevens to survey a separate fence line. I saw with my own eyes a land that was on the verge of collapse. There were giant old Koa trees and giant old 'Ohia trees that stand alone in a sea of non-native grasses. There were no medium aged trees and no baby trees. The goats and pigs and feral cows had decimated the undergrowth. The land was bare in some areas due to feral animal activity and erosion was following. There were even large trees that had recently died due to pigs digging at the base to feed on roots. For three days I was walking across the forest reserve and I could not believe how little was left of the forest that once existed there. The number of animals in the area was ridiculous! In the three day period I heard no close or distant gunfire. The hunting that is being done is not nearly enough to slow the wave of animals that are trampling the forest to death.

I believe that the proposed Nakula NAR is the best option for the protection of the forest as a unique ecosystem and for the continuation of hunting. The Koa forest is too valuable to be left without protection. The State has a unique opportunity to make a major difference. The forest of Kahikinui has provided endlessly for over a hundred years as fertile hunting grounds. In the interests of continuing the hunting there should be a balance stricken that helps keep and improve the remnant forest. The forest provides the area for water to enter the ground without running off. Without the forest there would be less fertile and abundant forage for the animals. There is a wealth in the forest that extends to humans in a less

direct way than subsistence food gathering. This potential "island" of forest holds the key to success elsewhere in the State in the study of Koa as a forestry product. The cultural significance of an intact forest goes farther than hunting alone. To protect both hunting as an activity and the forest as an ecosystem, it should be realized that they go hand in hand. Please approve the Nakula NAR.

Bill Standley, Honolulu, HI, May 10, 2010

DLNR Chair,

Please accept my testimony in support of the proposal to create the Nakula Natural Area Reserve on Maui. I urge you and the Board to approve the proposal and forward it on to the Governor with your recommendation. The testimony submitted by members of the "hunting" community on Maui should be evaluated according to the motivation of the source since their claim that the State already manages enough land for native resources and that they need all the land currently available for subsistence hunting is not supported by your own staff's research.

Besides approving this proposal, I request that you direct DLNR staff to develop a regional plan for the State land on the southern slope of Haleakala that provides protection of the native natural resources there and provides adequate area for hunting. Thank you.

Diane Fell, Makawao HI, May 10, 2010

Aloha e DLNR,

I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui.

The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system. There are many other places where goats and pigs are available to hunters. PLEASE protect this land and the koa and other native plants that exist there with the highest level of protection possible.

Lorna and Jack Hazen, May 10, 2010

To whom I may concern,

Please help us protect Nakula by making it part of the Natural Area reserve System. It needs to be isolated and protected from goats and pigs.

Aloha, Lorna and Jack Hazen

Victoria Conmy, Kula, HI, May 10, 2010

I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system.

Lottie Hight, Kihei, HI, May 10, 2010

I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system."
Mahalo.

LETTERS RECEIVED AFTER DEADLINE

Walter Quisenberry, May 12, 2010

Dear Sirs and Madams, My name is Walter Quisenberry, I am a hunter and environmentalist. I am fully in favor of the NARS management of the state owned Nakula lands. I am a lifelong resident of Hawaii, born during territorial days in Honolulu. I have lived on Maui since moving here from Oahu in 1975. I taught Hunter Education for several years, and was a member of Na Ala Hele Trails advisory council for several years also. I was aware of the state plan to turn the area into a hunting area as far back as the start of Na Ala Hele. While it was an attractive plan, it was nothing more than a dream and more unattainable as the years of inaction rolled on. As it stands currently, even if there was funding to do it, access has gotten more and more

impossible, due to the following land use changes. The DLNR gave up access from the Hawaiian Homes Kahikinui parcel where the trail was to start ,this is now closed to the public. The exit parcel was leased to Brendan Balthazar for cattle ranching and nothing was included in his lease that kept public access to the mauka lands under discussion . He is reportedly "very well connected politically", and all my inquiries to DLNR staff concerning access have gone nowhere. Apparently an access like what would be appropriate here needs to be written into the lease agreement at the time the lease is given,which to my knowlege was not or never exercised. Those actions or lack of actions have closed off any practical access for the public. The only other possibility of access would be from Haleakala Natioal Park which would entail walking down from nearly 10,000 ft elevation several miles to the much lower hunting lands,then reverse the process to get out, not a reasonable expectation of anyone. In addition the priority of hunting goats has shifted to deer,they are easier to get to and bigger. Meanwhile there is very limited if not impossible public access to the Nakula lands currently and they continue to degrade on a daily basis. I hunted the makai part of these lands for many years and was astounded at the rate of erosion taking place just between monthly and semi monthly trips. This was substantial erosion, like trails disappearing in a two month period. The erosion was fully attributable to goats, pigs, and the steepness of the terrain, cattle and horses could only negotiate the plateau areas . After a rain the streams ran and carried the topsoil into the ocean causing huge red plumes. I have been distressed about this area since I first went out there and I am glad that something is finally proposed to manage the lands.

As an aside, may I suggest to those in the DLNR that don't like this. There is no public area for hunting deer. Might they re-aim their their priorities to opening some accessible state land for deer hunting for the public. The problem of deer becoming pests to homeowners, farmers and land managers is well established. Its even been a front page story in the Maui News, Shouldn't that be a higher priority for the hunting lobby, {of which I am a member}, than keeping a politically landlocked, highly sensitive, highly erodible parcel for which there is money to repair from becoming bare dirt waiting for a rain to wash it into the sea.

Connie J. Scott, May 13, 2010

Dear DNLN

I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system."

PHONE (808) 594-1888

FAX (808) 594-1865



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
711 KAPI'OLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 500
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

HRD10/4824

February 9, 2010

Paul J. Conry, Administrator
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl St., Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Request to conduct a public hearing regarding designation of 1,517 acres of Forest Reserve Land into the Natural Area Reserves System, withdrawn from the Forest Reserves System; Nakula, Maui; TMKs: (2) 1-8-001:006 and (2) 1-8-009.

Aloha e Paul J. Conry,

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is in receipt of the above-mentioned letter, dated January 27, 2010, which is a draft submittal to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, requesting the ability to conduct a public hearing. The proposed re-designation of 1,517 acres of land from the Forest Reserves System and into the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) the is project would allow for special protection to be provided to some native plant communities in the reserve that are globally imperiled and not currently well represented within the NARS.

OHA supports this proposal and thanks you for the opportunity to comment. If you have further questions, please contact Heidi Guth by phone at (808) 594-1962, or e-mail her at heidig@oha.org.

'O wau iho nō me ka 'oia'i'o.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clyde W. Nāmu'o".

Clyde W. Nāmu'o
Chief Executive Officer

The Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership

P.O. Box 652, Makawao, HI 96768

Ph. (808) 573-8989

Fax (808) 573-1932

www.lhwrp.org

April 28, 2010

Aloha Ms. Yuen,

Let me introduce us. I am Dr. Art Medeiros, founder and Technical Advisor of the Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership. As you know, the newly proposed Kahikinui Natural Area Reserve falls within the land boundaries of our Partnership. The purpose of this Partnership is to work with all partners towards the goal of restoring our native, koa-based watershed forests to benefit the environment and Maui's water and other economic resources.

As such, we strongly support the designation of a portion of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve in the Nakula district of southern Haleakala as a new Natural Area Reserve.

As natural resources managers who focus on protection and restoration of native forests on leeward Haleakalā, we believe this designation clearly adds to the vision of creating a better functioning watershed, expanding habitat for unique species, preserving Hawaii's cultural resources, and supporting the rural economy.

We look forward to working with the Division of Forestry and Wildlife and other organizations to protect and improve the natural resources on southern Haleakalā.

Sincerely,

Arthur C. Medeiros, Ph.D
LHWRP Technical Advisor

Fernando Juan
Field Data Technician

Luke McLean
Field Crew Leader

Ainoa Kai'aokamalie
Restoration Specialist

Sunnie Hu'eu
Community Outreach Coordinator

Keahi Bustamente
Restoration Specialist

Andrea Buckman
Project Coordinator



The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
923 Nu'uau Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Tel (808) 537-4508
Fax (808) 545-2019

nature.org/hawaii

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting the Establishment of the Nakula Natural Area Reserve
Department of Land & Natural Resources Public Hearing
Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 6:30PM, Kula Community Center**

The Nature Conservancy supports the establishment of the Nakula Natural Area Reserve (NAR) from within the Kahikinui Forest Reserve. This is an important *Koa* forest preservation and restoration opportunity that will add value to other native forest management activities occurring on the leeward slopes of Haleakalā volcano and across the State.

The proposed Nakula NAR supports several different native habitats and species. Numerous rare plants are known from the area and, in addition to common native forest birds, two endangered birds and the Hawaiian bat are present in the area. The native communities on the upland slopes of leeward Haleakalā are globally imperiled, and none are well represented within the State's NAR System. While similar montane and subalpine habitats are protected in the Manukā and Kīpāhoehoe NARs on Hawai'i island, it is only to a limited extent and on quite different geologic substrate.

The leeward Haleakalā *Koa* forest is believed to have once stretched 40,000 acres from Makawao to Kaupō. Though this forest system is now severely degraded, the Nakula area has great potential for natural regeneration through additional management. The unique nature of this ecosystem and the potential for recovery make it desirable for inclusion in the State's NAR System. Additionally, designating this important core section of Haleakalā's leeward forest as a NAR would enhance the ability of this parcel to contribute to conservation and restoration actions across the entire watershed in partnership with DLNR's Forest Reserve System, and with neighboring landowners and partners including several private ranches, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership, and the Living Indigenous Forest Ecosystems (LIFE) program.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

S. Haunani Apoliona Christopher J. Benjamin Zadoc W. Brown, Jr. Anne Carter Samuel A. Cooke Peter H. Ehrman
Kenton T. Eldridge Thomas Gottlieb Peter Ho Stanley Hong Donald G. Horner J. Douglas Ing Mark L. Johnson Dr. Kenneth Kaneshiro
Bert A. Kobayashi, Jr. Faye Watanabe Kurren Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Bonnie P. McCloskey Bill D. Mills
Wayne Minami Michael T. Pfeffer H. Monty Richards Jean E. Rolles Scott Rolles Crystal K. Rose Nathan E. Smith Eric Yeaman

April 28, 2010

KGLMO Opposes NARs Takeover of State Forest Reserve

We are writing this testimony to convey our opposition to the changing of the status of Forest Reserve land to the Natural Area Reserve system. The Kihikinui Game & Land Management O'hana is currently working with DHHL on a management plan for DHHL lands in the Kihikinui area. The DHHL land we help manage immediately abuts the subject property known as Nakula. We feel very strongly that the Nakula area should remain available to the public.

KGLMO membership is currently around 75 members but rising. Many of our members are in our organization because it is one of several ways to access the Nakula area. One nice thing about our access to Nakula is that it is a more horizontal approach to the area than some other accesses.

Although we have access to this area, we feel the public needs to be treated seriously through a balanced resource management plan which the Forest Reserve can do. The Natural Area Reserve system has proven systemic to public use. Demand for recreational use of public lands have exploded with hiking and hunting activities leading the way. Why would we want to remove public lands from limited public use? These lands are owned by the people of Hawaii and the people have a right to use "their" lands.

Many of our KGLMO members are second or even third generation users of the area and want to see recreational use continue for generations to come. Besides hiking, bird & mammal hunting, it is the outdoor experience that is at the core of this resource. Most of us work hard all week looking forward with great expectations for the weekends or days when we can return to our favorite mountain "haunts" we so dearly love to visit. Memories of past discoveries, successes, even the mishaps are all part of the building blocks of character that make us who we are today. We pass this information on to our next generation to perpetuation our culture and heritage. Please don't take that away from us. For many of us this area is imbedded in our souls! Do not rob us of our identity.

To make our position perfectly clear we fervently oppose this takeover of Forestry Reserve land by the Natural Area reserve.

Sincerely,



Ben Despina

KGLMO President

WILBERT YEE
President

BRUCE FAULKNER
Vice-president
Corr. Secretary



JAMES ROBELLO
Secretary

GLEN NAKASHIMA
Treasurer

April 28, 2010

Let this written testimony serve as notice of our difference of opinion relevant to the DLNR changing the land category of the Nakula area from State Forestry Reserve to Natural Area Reserve. We are very much against DLNR making this change by essentially removing a hunting /recreational area from the very limited supply that we have on Maui. This area is the last decent public goat hunting area available on Maui. As such the area needs to be continually managed by the Forest Reserve for protection as well as continued recreational use.

Kaupo Wildlife Club (KWC) has a membership of approximately 72 members. Our members have been using the Nakula area for over 45 years. Over these years the club membership has participated in various land management programs under the direction of Kaupo Ranch Inc. Accessibility into the Nakula area was through the James Campbell Estate property and adjoining state land leased to Kaupo Ranch.

In recent years the Campbell Estate parcel was sold to the National Park and the state parcel is being leased by a "rancher". The National Park will protect similar if not identical ecosystems within their new boundaries. These areas are directly adjacent to the subject property that NARS is trying to take over. So why does the state need to duplicate protection efforts when NARS are suppose to be looking out for unique areas that cannot be duplicated.

Club members are very familiar with the Nakula area because of years of recreational opportunities enjoyed by our membership and their families. Since we can no longer utilize these areas it is all the more reason to preserve the limited recreational opportunities that are left in this area. Although this area can be challenging it is one of the most beautiful areas on Maui and needs to be available to the public. Though physically demanding the spiritually rewarding experience one gets from the land will draw you back time and again.



We would like to see the Forest Reserve follow through with their management plans without the eradication of our game animals. Eradication is not ethical or moral management plan. Forestry can work within the department along with Na Ala Hele to construct additional trail access and cabins for more recreational opportunities for everyone. This can be done for the benefit of the public as well as the flora & fauna.

Concluding, Kaupo Wildlife Club is against the conversion of the Forestry Reserve lands to Natural Area Reserve because the public use will become too restrictive with limited if any public use. We are part of the public and the public wants to continue using this area in traditional ways to provide subsistence and the benefits from the rewards of the outdoor experience.

Regards,

Bruce Faulkner

Kaupo Wildlife Club, Vice Pres./Corre. Sec.

67205

RECEIVED

Public Access Trails Hawaii
2525 Kahekili Highway
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-9233
808 244-5721

10 MAY -6 AM 11:39

4 May 2010

DEPT OF LAND
& NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAII

Ms. Thielem
Office of Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street
Kalanimoku Building
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Ms. Thielem:

Concerning: Designating Nakula Area on Maui as a Natural Area Reserve

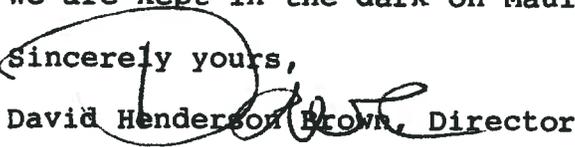
Competent legal authority believes that this Designation can not take place without an Environmental Impact Statement. As you well know, Chapter 343 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) contains the triggers that would require an EIS. In this case two come into play:

1. Use of State or County lands
2. Use of State or County Funds

Pay particular attention to sec. 343-5 HRS.

Please let me know when action is taken on this matter. We are kept in the dark on Maui.

Sincerely yours,


David Henderson Brown, Director

47198

Chairperson
DEPT. LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

RECEIVED
10 MAY -6 AM 109
DEPT OF LAND
& NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAII

May 4, 2010
Attention: Emma Yuen

I recently read the Maui News article on the proposal to designate part of a forest reserve to a Natural Area Reserve, and I would like to voice my opinion on this matter. I was unable to attend the meeting in Kula. . I have hunted and hiked in the area before, and am familiar with the land being proposed. Rather than making the area a more restrictive reserve, the state could perhaps spend more efforts in expanding and enhancing this area so that more people can enjoy this unique place today.

Land is one of our most valuable resource, and pressures from all of us for our special uses are many. Our hunting club, as well as myself personally, has supported conservation, and conservation causes many time before, but I feel this land in question should be left alone, in forest reserve and not in a Natural Area Reserve.

Thank you for your attention.


Henry Lau

Kula, HI 96790

cc: Bruce

May 4, 2010

Emma Yuen
Chairperson
DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809,

Dear Ms. Yuen,

Hawaii has made a lot of concessions for development, so now is the time to guard what little natural resources we have left. Our future depends on it.

I support the purpose of the state Natural Area Reserve System (NARS), i.e., to "preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the native flora and fauna, as well as geologic sites, of Hawai'i."

The approximately 1,500 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve on the south slope of Haleakala, must be protected, as it will help to ensure the rare leeward Haleakala koa forest is preserved. This in turn, provides safe habitats for endemic Hawaiian plants and animals.

We must not let our islands turn into a Haiti. It is our responsibility to care for our aina.

Sincerely,



Lorcen Matsushima

Honolulu, HI 96816

67219

May 5, 2010

RECEIVED

10 MAY 10 08:45

Laura Thielen, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources
P O Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

DEPT OF LAND
& NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAII

Attention: Emma Yuen

Dear Ms. Thielen:

I am writing to urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to approve the proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve (NAR) in the Kahikinui Forest Reserve on the slopes of Haleakala.

I am a former member of the Natural Area Reserves Commission and served as Chair of the Commission for several years. I understand the importance of managing and protecting these rare native koa forests on the lee slopes of Haleakala. On Maui. The best way to accomplish that would be through designation as a Natural Area Reserve.

The approximately 1,500 acres of this forest reserve contain significant habitat for not only the koa forest, but for various endangered bird species and native plant species as well and should be set aside for inhabitants of future generations. I am elated to learn that these valuable lands are being considered for designation as a Natural Area Reserve. Every effort should be made to "preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible of the native flora and fauna, as well as geologic sites of Hawaii."

The Natural Area Reserves stand as monuments to the wisdom and foresight of our generation. What a wonderful legacy to leave for the future

Yours truly,



Annette Kaohelaulii

Kaneohe, HI 96744

CHARMAINE TAVARES
Mayor



JEFFREY K. ENG
Director

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793-2155
www.mauiwater.org

May 6, 2010

Ms. Emma Yuen, Chairperson
State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife Office
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Ms. Yuen:

Re: Testimony of the Maui County Department of Water Supply
in Support of Nominating The Nakula Natural Area Reserve

The Maui County Department of Water Supply supports nomination of the Nakula Natural Area Reserve as proposed by your office.

The Department is an active partner of watershed partnerships in Maui County that strive to protect watershed areas from invasive plant and animal species. We also support reforestation efforts of degraded landscapes as reestablishment of *koa* forest increase fog interception and can increase water quantity as well as benefit water quality. We understand that the Nakula area is environmentally fragile and that designation as Limited (L) Sub-zone or Protective (P) Sub-zone could restore the watershed once grazing animals are removed. The project area overlies the Nakula aquifer which has a sustainable yield of 7 mgd. The Department is concerned that continued grazing in the area will further degrade the watershed and the underlying Nakula aquifer.

We are grateful for your efforts to preserve the quality of our watersheds and sustainability of our water resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.K. Eng".

Jeffrey K. Eng
Director
emb

"By Water All Things Find Life"

The Department of Water Supply is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410. Or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD)





REALTORS®
*Association of
Maui, Inc.*

441 Ala Makani Place
Kahului, Maui, HI 96732-3507
Phone: 808-243-8585 ~ Fax: 808-243-8585
Dave DeLeon, Government Affairs Director
Cell: 808-281-3269
E-mail: GAD@RAMaui.com
www.RAMaui.com

May 7, 2010

Ms. Emma Yuen
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Kalanimoku Building, Room 325
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hi. 96813

Dear Ms. Yuen

RE: Opposition to the NARS Take-over of the Nakula Forest Reserve

The 1300-member REALTORS® Association of Maui wishes to go on the record in opposition to the proposed NARS take-over of the Nakula section of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve. Our association is in agreement with the position taken by the Maui Na Ala Hele Council that the potential loss of public access to this important recreational area outweighs any administrative benefit gained by this proposed transfer of authority.

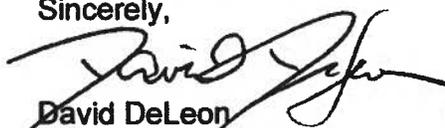
While much of Maui is undeveloped, much of that space is not open to the general public. Because of our growing population, the Maui community can ill afford to lose this important public recreational asset. Instead of losing more open space, we would encourage the Department to work to open more lands for public recreation.

As Na Hele Ala has indicated, this special area would be perfect for public trails for hikers, hunters, and more. Their vision sees a trails system that would run from the mountain to the sea and which would provide unique access to this wonderful part of our island. We support that vision and believe it should be given emphasis.

It is our belief that the proposal to give the Natural Area Reserve control over these lands would have the opposite, negative effect of limiting public use. We base that concern on the history of NARS on Maui. We can not afford to lose more public recreational opportunities. While we agree with the conservation goals of the NARS program, we believe those goals can be meant under the management of the State Forestry Division in the Nakula district.

Mahalo for this opportunity to express our thoughts on this important matter.

Sincerely,



David DeLeon
Government Affairs Director



NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 5021 , KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96733

Nanea nā puu o ka 'āina aloha

May 9, 2010

Emma Yuen, Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

Dear Ms. Yuen,

The Native Hawaiian Plant Society, established in 1980, is a non-profit volunteer organization on Maui that has a mission to protect and preserve Maui's native Hawaiian plants in natural areas, to educate the public about Maui's unique flora, and advocate the use of native plants in landscaping.

We are writing in support of the proposal for a new Natural Area Reserve at Nakula on leeward Haleakala, Maui. The 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui's largest remaining koa forest, deserves the highest level of protection DLNR can give it. This protection is necessary to preserve genetic diversity for koa trees, to provide better habitat for endangered birds and plants by linking with adjacent protected lands, and to provide a suitable place for reintroduction of rare plants that occur on adjacent unprotected lands.

This area is not appropriate as a place to manage goats or other feral animals for public hunting, as it is currently being done under the State Forest Reserve system. And despite the misguided protests at a recent public meeting, designating the area as a NAR does not represent a serious loss to the hunting community. As the proposal states, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and Haleakala Ranch provide public access only by permission and do not allow access to the general public. Access is not allowed from Haleakala National Park, so public hunting is now rare in this area. The animals that are destroying Maui's largest remaining koa forest at Nakula must be removed permanently. The hunters who understand, support, and participate in the eradication of these animals from Hawai'i's few remaining native forests are on the right side of history.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

The Board of the Native Hawaiian Plant Society

Martha Martin, Chair

Rebeca Lau, Treasurer

Irene Newhouse, Secretary

Lorna Hazen

Katy Romanchak

Tricia Scott

Stephanie Seidman

Tamara Sherrill

Philip Thomas



THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLANT SOCIETY
PO BOX 1000
HONOLULU, HI 96808

May 4, 2018

Ernie Chan, Chairman

Department of Land and Natural Resources

P.O. Box 1000

Honolulu, HI 96808

Dear Mr. Chan:

The Native Hawaiian Plant Society (NHPS) was incorporated in 1987 to preserve and protect the native Hawaiian plant life. We have a long history of working with the public to protect and restore native plant life. We are currently working on a project to protect the native Hawaiian plant life in the area of the Kula National Forest. We are currently working on a project to protect the native Hawaiian plant life in the area of the Kula National Forest. We are currently working on a project to protect the native Hawaiian plant life in the area of the Kula National Forest.

We are currently working on a project to protect the native Hawaiian plant life in the area of the Kula National Forest. We are currently working on a project to protect the native Hawaiian plant life in the area of the Kula National Forest. We are currently working on a project to protect the native Hawaiian plant life in the area of the Kula National Forest. We are currently working on a project to protect the native Hawaiian plant life in the area of the Kula National Forest. We are currently working on a project to protect the native Hawaiian plant life in the area of the Kula National Forest.

This project is a very important one for the Native Hawaiian Plant Society. We are currently working on a project to protect the native Hawaiian plant life in the area of the Kula National Forest. We are currently working on a project to protect the native Hawaiian plant life in the area of the Kula National Forest. We are currently working on a project to protect the native Hawaiian plant life in the area of the Kula National Forest. We are currently working on a project to protect the native Hawaiian plant life in the area of the Kula National Forest. We are currently working on a project to protect the native Hawaiian plant life in the area of the Kula National Forest.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

The proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve

I oppose the Kahikinui Forest reserve from becoming the Nakula Natural Area Reserve. I can not believe such an area of this magnitude would be needed to be protected. I feel that if there is a need for preservation, small fence plots around those endangered plants and trees would provide sufficient protection. With goats being aloud to graze on the grasses and weeds to keeps grasses from becoming a fire hazard that could destroy the whole preservation efforts. There is so much potential for a variety of public uses for this Forest Reserve. It has already been seen previously that with the NARS areas that little to no maintenance has been provided to these NARS areas. Why take on more land when you can not take care of the areas that you already have. It is sad that the hunters lose a lot more land and get nothing to replace the gathering areas. This is the last and only Forest Reserve left for the hunters to hunt. The hunters need to have this area accessible. Which I believe can be obtained. The surrounding ranches and the Hawaiian homelands in Kahikinui all hunt there. It is the only real good place for the future of hunting and the hunters to come. Hunters play a valuable part in all eco systems and bring lots of funds to the community. Not establishing Nakula NAR would be preserving the only forest reserve left for the hunting community to provide food for family and friends. Also the Haleakala National Park purchased a property in the Nakaula area that will be protected and preserved. We all know that with the economy the way it is it would be foolish to be spending multitudes of money on something that is not only about protection. But is also about the continued slaughter of all ungulates including; goats, deer, and pigs. I have seen this happen time and time again. I ask you to please keep the Kahikinui Forest Reserve (Nakula) for what it should be, the last forest reserve for the hunters and the community to enjoy. Lets give our children and grandchildren a place to have for their future to supply there families with food, subsidence, and outdoor recreation.

Thank you.

Jeffery DeRego

Jeffery DeRego
President of the Maui Hunters and Sportsman Club
KHVG, President

DEPT OF LAND
& NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAII

10 MAY 10 08:45

RECEIVED

**Continued Opposition of proposal: Nakula Natural
Area Reserve**

NAME	ADDRESS
Kayman Ota	Maunaloa Maui
Michael Fetterer	Pukalani Maui
Chris Faulkner	MAKAWAO, HI 96768
David H. Brown	1, WAILUKU, HI 96793
Anne Brown	Wailuku HI 96793
BENJAMIN JOAQUIN	MAKAWAO 96768
Elyis De Rego	Pukalani 96768
Alice-Hale-De Rego	Pukalani 96768
James De Rego	Pukalani 96768
Matthew K Kelle	96790
Jeff Kile	Kula HI 96790
Mathew C Gouveia	Makawao HI 96768
Kaiko Kelo	HI 96790
Russell Rezentes	96790
Lymantuaalaa	MAKAWAO 96768
James Klask	Waia HI 96793
Patrick K. KUAMOOII	PUKALANI HI 96768
Patrick Wallace JR.	Haiku HI 96708
Gabe Kahalevahi	Haiku HI 96708
RODNEY CHASHA	KALUA RD 96708
Leland Botelho	MAKAWAO HI 96768
Nathan Brown	Kula HI 96753
Doug Jensen	Makawao, HI 96768
Edgese Tabara	Kahului HI 96732
PAUL FASI	KULA 96790
CLAYTON HEMA	KAHULUI 96732
LAWRENCE TABARO	HAIKU HI 96708
Russell Clark	Puk. HI 96768
Darrell Dente	Haiku 96708
Alfred Tabaco	Haiku 96708
Bruce Cunningham	Kula 96790
David Black	Kailike 96790
Jeffery De Rego	Pukalani 96768
Arcilio Torres Santos Bras	Haiku 96708
Charles Hefele	Haiku, 96708
Daniela Gomes	Makawao 96768
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Chairperson
Hawai'i Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Kalanimoku Building, Room 325,
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

10 May 2010

ATTN: Emma Yuen

RE: Proposal for the Nakula Natural Area Reserve

Dear Sir/Madame,

American Bird Conservancy wishes to offer its strong support for the proposal to designate approximately 1,517 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve on leeward east Maui as the Nakula Natural Area Reserve.

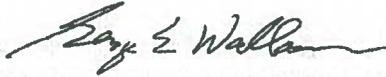
The purpose of the state Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) is to “preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the native flora and fauna, as well as geologic sites, of Hawai’i.” A designation of the Nakula area would certainly be consistent with the intent of the NARS in that the Nakula NAR would offer the highest level of protection to Maui’s largest remaining leeward koa forest. There is currently no strict protection afforded to this Dry/Leeward/Montane forest type anywhere on Maui. The proposed area is currently habitat for Nene and Hawaiian Petrel, birds listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. Other listed species include the Hawaiian Hoary Bat and nine species of plants.

Importantly, the area has been proposed as a reintroduction site for native Hawaiian birds, such as the endangered Maui Parrotbill, Maui ‘Alauahio, and ‘Akohekohe. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service Revised Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Forest Birds states that a continuous band of suitable forest habitat should be reconnected around Haleakala, especially at upper elevations where mosquitoes are rare. Species such as the Maui Parrotbill and ‘Akohekohe are currently restricted to the upper elevations of forest on the windward side such as Hanawi and Waikamoi. To reduce the long-term risk of extinction, it is an urgent priority to expand the range of these species and to increase their populations by restoring areas such as Nakula and introducing parrotbills and ‘Akohekohe. A project is currently under development to create a new population of Maui Parrotbill at Kahikinui. Designation of the Nakula NAR would contribute immensely to the long-term security of the site and set the stage for restoration efforts focused on the exclusion of exotic ungulates and increasing stocks of koa and other

native plant species. The proposed Nakula NAR also provides habitat for other native birds, such as the Kolea, Pueo, 'Apapane, and 'Amakihi.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. Designation of the Nakula NAR will be important for the protection of the rare and dwindling leeward koa forest and an investment in the long-term security of some of the state's rarest bird species. We commend the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for its vision and the seriousness with which it takes its responsibility of protecting Hawai'i's precious natural resources.

Sincerely,



George E. Wallace, PhD.
Vice President

American Bird Conservancy conserves native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas by safeguarding the rarest species, protecting and restoring habitats, and reducing threats while building capacity of the bird conservation movement. ABC has an active program in Hawai'i, working with state and federal government agencies and non-governmental organizations to protect Hawai'i's unique native birds. For more information, visit, www.abcbirds.org.

ALAN B. BURDICK

Attorney at Law

1

Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0051

Tel. 808.6

E-mail: j _____ nei

May 10, 2010

Via email: dlnr@hawaii.gov Attn: Emma Yuen

DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Chairperson and Members

Board of Land and Natural Resources

Department of Land and Natural Resources

State of Hawai'i

Re: Support for Proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve

Within the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Leeward Haleakala, Maui

Dear Members of the Board:

In its "PROPOSAL FOR THE NAKULA NATURAL AREA RESERVE," dated April

2010 (“staff report”), the staff of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (“DLNR”) has concluded that a new Natural Area Reserve (“NAR”) should be established at Nakula on the southern, leeward slope of Haleakala, on the Island of Maui. This proposal has already been approved by the NARS Commission and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. As an environmentalist and hiker, I write in strong support of the proposal.

I haven’t been there, but hope to do so someday, and to find it to have recovered, at least to some extent, from prior damage. I understand from your staff’s recommendation of the area as a Natural Area Reserve, that this area is biologically significant because it supports a large number of endemic Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems, including the increasingly rare Leeward Haleakala Koa Forest.

The information that I have received, and that is available to you, indicates the following important factors that militate strongly in favor of NAR designation for Nakula:

As you are all well aware, the purpose of the state Natural Area Reserve System (“NARS”) is to “preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the native flora and fauna, as well as geologic sites, of Hawai‘i.”

The proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve on Maui, which will encompass approximately 1,500 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve on the south slope of Haleakala, will protect increasingly rare leeward Haleakala koa forest, provide safe habitat for endemic Hawaiian plants and animals, and significantly enhance conservation efforts in the region.

The land on which the proposed Nakula NAR is located is likely to be ceded land, set aside by the Hawaiian sovereign because of its importance to the Hawaiian people, and it deserves the strongest protection we can provide in order to protect the koa forest and its plant and animal inhabitants for future generations.

The Nakula area currently holds significant animal and plant species that are in great need of the enhanced protection that will accompany NARS designation. As your staff recommendation has noted, these species include, but are not limited to, (1) the endangered Nene (Hawaiian Goose); (2) the endangered ‘Ua‘u (Hawaiian Petrel), for which the rocky subalpine uplands are potential nesting sites; (3) the endangered ‘Opea‘ape‘a (Hawaiian Hoary Bat) is also a likely resident of the area; and (4) a number of non-endangered, but nonetheless threatened native bird species, such as the Kolea, Pueo, ‘Apapane, and ‘Amakihi.

In addition, your staff notes that the Nakula area has been proposed as a reintroduction site for other native Hawaiian birds that no longer inhabit Nakula and surrounding areas, such as the endangered Maui Parrotbill, Maui 'Alauahio, and 'Akohekohe.

The Recovery Plan for Endangered Hawaiian Forest Birds, prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2006, states that a continuous "lei" or ring of suitable forest should be reconnected around Haleakala, especially at upper elevations where mosquitoes are rare. Nakula is an ideal site that fits this description, and indeed it appears to be an indispensable link in that chain. As your staff stated, in their report at page 6:

Designation of this area as a NAR will "complete" the protection of representative examples of the natural communities found on the leeward slope of Haleakala. When combined with the nearby Kanaio NAR and Auwahi Preserve (mid-elevation dry and mesic forests), 'Ahihi-Kina'u NAR (marine and low elevation xeric habitat) and the Pu'u O Kali Preserve (lowland dry forest), **designation of a Nakula NAR that includes montane and subalpine habitats will create a system of protected areas that encompass the entire range of elevation on leeward Haleakala – from sea to summit.**

[Boldface added.]

The Nakula NAR is extremely important because it encompasses five different types of ecosystems, all of which are endangered. Your staff has stated, again at page 6 of their report:

There are five native vegetation communities within the proposed Nakula NAR. They include a dry subalpine shrubland, two dry subalpine forest types, and two types of montane mesic forests. **All four of the forest communities are considered globally imperiled due to their limited remaining range and severity of threats. The shrubland is [also] considered vulnerable. Protection of the Koa/'Ohi'a Montane Mesic Forest is the primary reason for creation of the Nakula NAR. While this plant community exists elsewhere, the leeward Haleakala occurrence has a unique mix of associated plant (and invertebrate)**

species. As such, it is important to preserve this last remaining example of a previously widespread forest.

. . . .

Some Dry Montane and Subalpine shrublands and forests are protected in Haleakala and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Parks. All of these occurrences are threatened by fire, and on the Big Isle, by volcanic activity as well. **Tropical dryland forests (especially those at high elevation) are among the most imperiled ecosystems in the world. Establishment of a Nakula NAR would be an important step in preserving what remains of this rapidly vanishing habitat.**

[Boldface and underscoring added.]

In addition to bird species, the Nakula area is important for at least 20 species of rare Hawaiian plants, eight of which are already listed as endangered, again as reported by your staff. These endangered species include Ko'oko'olau (*Bidens micrantha* ssp. *kaleaha*), 'Ohawai (*Clermontia lindseyana*), Hawaiian Geranium, Nohoanu (*Geranium multiflorum*), and the truly beautiful and majestic 'Ahinahina (Haleakala Silversword).

As you are probably also aware, the proposed Nakula NAR is adjacent to federally designated Critical Habitat for plants that have similar habitat types. The designation of a second protected area adjoining the federal area will provide a substantial benefit. As biologists have long taught us, the combination of two adjacent reserves of a given size is almost invariably better for the protection of endangered habitat than having two reserves that total the same size but are isolated from each other.

It appears clear that protecting and managing the Nakula NAR for the koa forest and its inhabitants is the highest and best use of this land. No other proposed use would provide a benefit to the general public while simultaneously providing such enhanced protection to this fragile ecosystem.

The Nakula area has been seriously damaged for many decades by introduced browsing and grazing mammals (goats, cattle, deer, and pigs), and invasive plants, although, fortunately, significant native forests and species remain at Nakula. Management and protection of these public trust resources will be facilitated by designation of the Nakula area as a NAR. Similarly, as your staff stated at page 10 of their report, **"The environmental consequences of no action will likely be the continued degradation and eventual loss of this unique remnant of Maui's natural heritage."** [Emphasis added.]

I understand that, unfortunately, some hunters are opposing the NAR designation for Nakula because they are worried about losing goat-hunting opportunities in this area. However, designation of the area as a NAR will not actually prohibit public hunting. It will merely mean that the goats and other feral animals will not be managed on a sustained-yield basis. Nor should they be in this area. I recognize, as your staff report states at pages 11- 12, that “large scale conservation efforts . . . run the risk of alienating hunters who perceive conservation efforts as encroaching on their interests [and that] this is especially problematic on the south and eastern sides of Haleakala where there is still a significant rural and native Hawaiian population, for whom the ability to harvest game for subsistence is still important.”

Accommodating these competing interests in an appropriate manner may possibly involve some difficulties, but I am confident that the establishment of the Nakula NAR and the actual implementation of conservation practices pursuant to NARS requirements can be accomplished without unduly impinging on these hunting interests. In this regard, I respectfully submit that the Board should recognize that there are many areas – other than Nakula -- where introduced goats (as well as pigs and deer) can be managed for public hunting, but Nakula is Maui’s largest remaining leeward koa forest, and for that reason alone, it deserves NAR status. Preservation of goat habitat (which is plentiful elsewhere) simply cannot reasonably be compared to this last majestic stand of leeward koa forest on Maui.

Aware of the competing interests and having communicated in detail with the people in the neighboring communities, your staff has unambiguously and unequivocally concluded that a Natural Area Reserve should be established at Nakula. The Board should endorse that strong bottom-line recommendation.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration of my concerns. I would be pleased to amplify on them if so requested.

Very truly yours,

Alan B. Burdick



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII'I

May 10, 2010

Laura Thielen, Chair
Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

Dear Chair Thielen and Members of the Board.

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i strongly supports the proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve on Maui for several reasons.

1. The purpose of the state Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) is to "preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the native flora and fauna, as well as geologic sites, of Hawai'i."
2. The proposed Nakula Natural Area Reserve on Maui, consisting of approximately 1,500 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve on the south slope of Haleakala, will protect increasingly rare leeward Haleakala koa forest, provide safe habitat for endemic Hawaiian plants and animals, and significantly enhance conservation efforts in the region.
3. The proposed Nakula NAR is likely ceded land, set aside by the Hawaiian sovereign because of its importance to the Hawaiian people, and deserves the strongest protection we can provide in order to protect the koa forest and its inhabitants for future generations. Protecting and managing the Nakula NAR for the koa forest and its inhabitants is the highest and best use of this land.
4. Sadly, this area has been hammered for many decades by introduced browsing and grazing mammals, and invasive plants, yet significant native forests and species remain. Management and protection of these public trust resources will be facilitated by designation of the Nakula NAR. There are many areas where introduced goats can be managed for public hunting, but Nakula is Maui's largest remaining leeward koa forest.



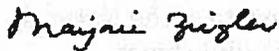
Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – *Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu*

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President: Maura O'Connor * Treasurer: Kim Ramos * Secretary: Douglas Lamerson
Directors: Rick Barboza * Madelyn D'Enbeau * Maka'ala Ka'aumoana * Hannah Springer
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler

5. The endangered Nene (Hawaiian goose) has been observed in the area, and the rocky subalpine uplands are potential nesting sites for the endangered 'Ua'u (Hawaiian Petrel). The endangered 'Opea'ape'a (Hawaiian Hoary Bat) is also a likely resident of the area.
6. The area has been proposed as a reintroduction site for native Hawaiian birds, such as the endangered Maui Parrotbill, Maui 'Alauahio, and 'Akohekohe. The Recovery Plan for Endangered Hawaiian Forest Birds states that a continuous *lei* or ring of suitable forest should be reconnected around Haleakala, especially at upper elevations where mosquitoes are rare.
7. The proposed Nakula NAR also provides habitat for other native birds, such as the Kolea, Pueo, 'Apapane, and 'Amakihi. At least 20 species of rare plants have been reported from the proposed Nakula NAR or adjacent lands with similar habitat; 8 of these are listed as endangered, including an endangered Ko'oko'olau (*Bidens micrantha* ssp. *kaleaha*), an endangered 'Ohawai (*Clermontia lindseyana*), an endangered Hawaiian Geranium, Nohoanu (*Geranium multiflorum*), and endangered 'Ahinahina (Haleakala Silversword). The proposed Nakula NAR is adjacent to federally designated Critical Habitat for plants that have similar habitat types.

Please support the nomination of Nakula to the Natural Area Reserves System. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to comment on this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Marjorie Ziegler



Department of Land and Natural Resources
Natural Area Reserve System
Chairperson Emma Yuen
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

May 10, 2010

Aloha pumehana Ms. Yuen,

PROTECTING
NATIVE HAWAIIAN
CUSTOMARY &
TRADITIONAL RIGHTS
AND OUR FRAGILE
ENVIRONMENT

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of the Nakula Natural Area Reserve (NAR) in the Kahikinui Forest Reserve on the south slope of Haleakala, Maui. The State has an obligation to protect the natural and cultural resources of this area because it is an important watershed, habitat for native species, and likely ceded land. We strongly urge you to establish the Nakula NAR to protect this area as an irreplaceable public trust resource.

KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance is a network of concerned residents, kūpuna, cultural practitioners, resource users, scientists, educators, and students working to protect Hawai'i's unique natural environment and perpetuate the cultural practices that depend on them. KAHEA is a long-time advocate of the Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) program to protect public trust endemic resources for the perpetuation of Hawai'i's unique environment and culture. The purpose of the state NARS is to "preserve in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the native flora and fauna, as well as geologic sites, of Hawai'i."

The land proposed for the Nakula NAR is likely former crown and government lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. As such, this land and its resources are public trust resources that the state is entrusted by law to protect for the benefit of Native Hawaiians and the public. Protecting and managing the Nakula NAR as a significant leeward koa forest and all of the plants and animals found in this unique habitat is the highest and best use of this land.

Consisting of approximately 1,500 acres of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve on the south slope of Haleakala, the proposed Nakula NAR will protect increasingly rare leeward Haleakala koa forests, provide safe habitat for endemic Hawaiian plants and animals, and significantly enhance conservation efforts in

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KAHEA: the Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance is a non-profit 501(c)3 working to protect the unique natural and cultural resources of the Hawaiian islands. KAHEA translates to english as "the call."

the region. This area provides habitat for native birds, such as the Kolea, Pueo, 'Apapane, and 'Amakihi. The endangered Nene (Hawaiian goose) has been observed in the area, and the rocky subalpine uplands are potential nesting sites for the endangered 'Ua'u (Hawaiian Petrel). The endangered 'Opea'ape'a (Hawaiian Hoary Bat) is also a likely resident of the area.

In addition, this area has been proposed as a reintroduction site for native Hawaiian birds, such as the endangered Maui Parrotbill, Maui 'Alauahio, and 'Akohekohe. The Recovery Plan for Endangered Hawaiian Forest Birds states that a continuous "lei" or ring of suitable forest should be reconnected around Haleakala, especially at upper elevations where mosquitoes are still not a significant threat.

Moreover, some 20 species of rare plants have been reported from the proposed Nakula NAR or adjacent lands with similar habitat; 8 of these are listed as endangered, including an endangered Ko'oko'olau (*Bidens micrantha* ssp. *kaleaha*), an endangered 'Ohawai (*Clermontia lindseyana*), an endangered Hawaiian Geranium, Nohoanu (*Geranium multiflorum*), and endangered 'Ahinahina (Haleakala Silversword). Given that this area is adjacent to federally designated Critical Habitat for plants that have similar habitat types, is just one more reason to extend this special state designation to Nakula.

Unfortunately, without regulatory protections, introduced grazing mammals and invasive plants have been allowed to devastate portions of this important forest region. Yet, significant native forests and species have managed to thrive in this region. Management and protection of these rare public trust resources will be improved and supported by designating this area the Nakula NAR.

The State should rely on continued public hunting activities – a cultural practice itself – to further the management needs of the proposed Nakula NAR. Public hunting can help protect native birds and plants by removing invasive grazing animals, like goats. Designation of this portion of the Kahikinui Forest as a NAR should not be used to limit reasonable public access in this area. Rather, the public's continued presence in this area should be used to improve the management of this important resource for future generations.

Mahalo nunui for this opportunity to express our support for the Nakula Natural Area Reserve proposal. Please contact us with any questions.

Mahalo,



Miwa Tamanaha
Executive Director



Marti Townsend
Program Director

