

Testimony received by the Planning Department 24 hours prior to the June 27, 2023 Planning Commission meeting (June 20, 2023, 9:01 am to June 26, 8:30 am).



P. O. Box 81 :: Lihue, HI 96766
phone 808.639.1018 :: fax 808.822.5075
www.KauaiPath.org
news@kauaipath.org

a registered 501 (C) 3 non-profit

June 26, 2023

County of Kaua'i Planning Commission
4444 Rice Street, Suite A473
Lihue, HI 96766

RE: Support for Class IV Zoning Permit Z-IV-2023-10;
Special Management Area Use Permit SMA(U)-2023-10; and
Shoreline Setback Variance Permit SSV-2023-1
Project Name: Nawiliwili-Ahukini Shared-Use Path

Aloha Mr. DeGracia and Planning Commissioners,

My name is Tommy Noyes, and I serve as the executive director of Kauai Path, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 educational non-profit. Thank you for providing this forum for community members to express their concerns on the continued expansion of Ke Ala Hele Makalae in general, and specifically regarding the proposed section of path on the makai side of the Lihue Airport.

Kauai Path's board of directors requests that its recommendation for you to approve the three permit applications which are the subject of this hearing be noted for the record. The board's support for this action stems from our involvement with the coastal path development program from its inception close to thirty years ago.

Ke Ala Hele Makalae's roots are in Lydgate Beach Park, where in 1994 thousands of volunteers came together to build Kamalani Playground. That cadre of dedicated citizens, laboring in collaboration with local government officials, parlayed a community-driven playground build into an environmental assessment and manifested numerous enhancements to Lydgate Beach Park, including Phase I of the coastal path system. Today, we are still assertively pushing forward on this ambitious active transportation program, which people frequently describe to me as an ideal example of tax dollars benefitting our whole island.

The existing path system is used overwhelmingly by Kauai residents. In April 2021, when Resolution 2021-13—a measure supporting Public Work's acquisition of a shared-use path easement at the Islander on the Beach in Waipouli—was before the County Council, Kauai Path collected path users' signatures on a successful petition supporting that resolution. Kauai Path volunteers collected signatures from people as they enjoyed the path. Approximately 79% of those 228 signatures were from people identifying themselves as Kauai residents.

The people of Kauai trust you, as their planning commissioners, to reach prudent decisions and act in their best interests. Please honor that trust now by voting to approve these permit applications.

Sincerely,

Tommy Noyes
Executive Director, Kauai Path, Inc.

June 27, 2023

Lora H Petrak
3-2600 Kaumualii Hwy
Ste 1300 PMB 515
Lihue, HI 96766
lora@petrak.com, 847-456-5375

County of Kaua'i Planning Commission
4444 Rice Street, Suite A473
Lihue, HI 96766

RE: Support for Class IV Zoning Permit Z-IV-2023-10
Special Management Area Use Permit SMA(U)-2023-10; and
Shoreline Setback Variance Permit SSV-2023-1
Project Name: Nawiliwili-Ahukini Shared-Use Path

Aloha Mr. DeGracia and Planning Commission Members,

As an avid cyclist I regularly use the entire length of Ke Ala Hele Makalae shared path as well as the sections currently seeking permit today. These areas afford my riding companions and me safe routes away from traffic with attractive views that make the ride more pleasurable. We have found riding is the best way to go whale watching.

Every time I ride, I see people of all ages walking, running, bike riding, skateboarding, dog walking, parents with strollers, people with fishing poles. The exact type of traffic depends on the section and nearby amenities. In the sections up for permit today, runners, dog walkers and bike riders are the most common.

Shared use paths for active transportation are valuable alternatives to traditional sedentary transportation. Key benefits for the communities where paths are built include gas savings, reduced vehicular traffic volumes, and help maintaining -- or improving -- the health of path users through regular or occasional exercise.

Given access to safe paths close to home, people will use them actively and frequently. Even for those who might not live adjacent to the path, access to safe, long-distance routes away from traffic is valuable.

Over the years I've been involved with the conversation and followed Ke Ala Hele Makalae's extensive approvals process. I am now excited as each new iteration shows how much the well-being of Kauai's residents matters.

Please vote to approve the requested permits, and advance this worthy project without delay.

Mahalo for your attention,


Lora H Petrak

From: Jennifer Jones-Patulli <jennifer.jones.patulli@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 11:21 AM
To: Planning Department
Subject: RE: Support for Class IV Zoning Permit Z-IV-2023-10; Special Management Area Use Permit SMA(U)-2023-10; and Shoreline Setback Variance Permit SSV-2023-1
Attachments: Letter to Planning - JJP.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the County of Kauai. Do not click links or open attachments even if the sender is known to you unless it is something you were expecting.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I attached my testimony to this email.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

J Jones-Patulli
4103 Puaole, Lihue, HI
Jennifer.jones.patulli@gmail.com
808-631-5601

June 27, 2023

County of Kaua'i Planning Commission
4444 Rice Street, Suite A473
Lihue, HI 96766

RE: Support for Class IV Zoning Permit Z-IV-2023-10;
Special Management Area Use Permit SMA(U)-2023-10; and
Shoreline Setback Variance Permit SSV-2023-1
Project Name: Nawiliwili-Ahukini Shared-Use Path

Aloha Mr. DeGracia and Planning Commission Members,

I am a cyclist with 2485 miles of riding on Kauai in 2023. I cycle for sport, recreation, and commuting. I own a car but prefer to cycle for health, happiness, and environmental concerns. I am familiar with getting around this island by bicycle and care about developing infrastructure to support safe cycling and walking on Kauai.

With Ke Ala Hele Makalae shared-use path, I see Kauai making significant steps to preserve, protect, and extend access island-wide for its residents and visitors.

Ke Ala Hele Makalae shared-use path provides a safe space for those choosing (or needing) to move around the island without a car. Safe passage through traffic congestion areas allows pedestrians and cyclists to get off the highways and out of the way of faster-moving vehicles.

Ke Ala Hele Makalae shared-use path is also a place I frequent with friends and family. We ride or walk the path, stop for food, enjoy the ocean, and check out local shops. If it were not for this path, we would rarely support business north of Wailua because traffic congestion makes the experience challenging and time-consuming. We take our car to Lydgate, get on the path with our bikes, and ride from there North. It is still too dangerous to cycle from Lihue to Wailua. I hope we can soon enjoy safe passage from Lihue North without using a car.

I've also noticed how the new bike lanes in Lihue have changed the experience of those moving through the area. For example, I regularly see smiling kids riding their bikes along Hardy and Puaole Streets. As a volunteer with Bikes on Rice, I've guided many cyclists safely ride on Rice Street. I believe this is a direct result of the Lihue Town Core infrastructure improvements.

I respectfully urge you to approve Public Works' request and the above-referenced permits.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Jones-Patulli

Testimony received by the Planning Department less than 24 hours prior to the June 27, 2023 Planning Commission meeting.

Pat Ichioka White

3175 Alohi Street Lihue HI 96766
PTWhite2005@yahoo.com m. 612.860.3027

June 13, 2023

County of Kaua'i Planning Commission
4444 Rice Street, Suite A473 COUNTY OF KAUAI
Lihue, HI 96766

'23 JUN 20 P1:53
RE: Support for Class IV Zoning Permit Z-IV-2023-10;
Special Management Area Use Permit SMA(U)-2023-10; and
Shoreline Setback Variance Permit SSV-2023-1
Project Name: Nawiliwili-Ahukini Shared-Use Path

Aloha Mr. DeGracia and Planning Commission Members,

Because Ke Ala Hele Makalae shared-use path very significantly and positively impacts my quality of life, I respectfully urge you to approve Public Works' request and approve the above referenced permits.

I reside on Alohi Street in Lihue near the Library, and at age 85 I am fortunate to be active and in robust health. One of the ways that my friends and I sustain our vigor is by bicycling on Ke Ala Hele Makalae.

Currently, in order for me to ride on Ke Ala Hele Makalae, I load my bicycle onto my car's rack and drive North through Kapaa to access the completed section of the path. As it is now, we try to ride at least 20 miles every Sunday. We start at Kealia Beach, ride North to Donkey Beach, turn around, go to Kamalani Playground and Lydgate Beach Park, then back to Donkey Beach, and finally back to the car.

The recently completed Lihue Town Core infrastructure improvements (mainly funded by the TIGER program) and Timbers Kaua'i granting the public access routes through the Hokuala properties extends the safe bicycling options in my neighborhood.

Building the East Side's coastal path and connecting Nawiliwili and Lihue to Kealia with a continuous, safe bicycling and walking facility has been a County priority since the 1990s.

Lydgate Beach Park's portion of Ke Ala Hele Makalae was built and dedicated by Mayor Bryan Baptiste for public enjoyment in 2004—that's nearly twenty years ago!

Once Ke Ala Hele Makalae connects Lydgate Beach Park to Ninini Lighthouse, my friends and I will have a continuous bicycle-friendly route all the way from my home all the way North to Kealia.

Please approve these permit requests and move this long-awaited public benefitting facility closer to completion without further delay.

Mahalo for your attention to this testimony,



Pat Ichioka White