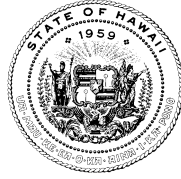


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
HEARING ON MARCH 23, 2021 AT 1:00PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**SCR 231/SR 191 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS  
TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF SOUTH POINT  
ACCESS ROAD FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC**

March 23, 2021

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) submits comments on these resolutions requesting DHHL to provide recommendations for the maintenance of South Point Access Road for motor vehicles and pedestrian traffic. The Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) adopted the South Point Resource Management Plan, Kamā'oa, Ka'ū, Hawai'i in October 2016 that can be accessed here: [https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/DHHL-South-Point-Final-Plan\\_101916\\_to-DHHL\\_low-res.pdf](https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/DHHL-South-Point-Final-Plan_101916_to-DHHL_low-res.pdf).

The DHHL Ka'ū Regional Plan adopted by the HHC in 2012 identified as one of its priority projects the need for a management plan for DHHL's coastal lands in the ahupua'a of Kamā'oa which is also commonly referred to as South Point. The resource management issues that have arisen over the decades have stemmed from the lack of a consistent DHHL management presence at South Point due to insufficient funds, staffing levels, and resources to manage these lands at a higher level.

The purpose of the South Point Resource Management Plan is to identify feasible and sustainable solutions to improve DHHL management of the South Point area. Four overall management goals were identified: 1) Restore and protect important cultural sites and natural resources, 2) Perpetuate native Hawaiian culture, values, history and language for future generations, 3) Provide a safe, clean, and friendly environment, and 4) Generate revenue in order to sustainably fund cultural and natural resources management activities and provide economic opportunities for DHHL beneficiaries and their families.

Of the 15 projects within these four overall goals, six were identified as Priority Projects i.e. projects that need to be implemented immediately in order for other future management projects to be successful. Three of the six involve vehicles and access: 1) Manage vehicular access at South Point, 2) Institute a Parking Fee for South Point, and 3) Plan, Design, and Construct a Service Road and a Pedestrian Path to Mahana

Bay. The South Point Resource Management Plan specifies that the coastal path will allow the general public to access the area, but will only serve foot-traffic; while the service road will provide access for emergency and maintenance vehicles only. The exact alignment of the routes will not be finalized until further technical studies such as an archaeological inventory survey and preliminary engineering report and consultation with State Historic Preservation Division are conducted.

A description of each priority project is discussed in further detail, including logistical and cost considerations (in 2016 dollars) in the South Point Resource Management Plan. The three projects involving vehicles and access is reflected in the table below:

<b>Priority Project</b>	<b>One-Time Cost Totals</b>	<b>Annual Operating Cost Totals</b>
Manage Vehicular Access	\$20,000 - \$40,000	\$329,000 - \$342,000
Institute a Parking Fee	\$5,300 - \$10,500	\$0
Plan, Design, and Construct a Service Road and Pedestrian Path to Mahana Bay	\$2,218,600 - \$3,333,600	\$100,300*

\* If gravel maintenance road is constructed. Maintenance for paved road is lower.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Hawaii State Aha Moku  
State of Hawaii  
Post Office Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of  
Hawaii State Aha Moku

Before the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
1:00 pm

**Support for SCR 231 / SR 191**

**Relating to Maintenance; Pathway; South Point Access Road; Department of Hawaiian Home Lands**

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on SCR 231 and SR 191. This bill is requesting the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to provide recommendations for the maintenance of South Point Access Road for motor vehicles and pedestrian traffic.

**Participants in the Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) of Ka'u, Moku O Keawe supports this measure.**

Ka Lae, the most southern part of Hawaii has for generations been known to be a wahi pana and a native Hawaiian cultural significance place for those us who are *Na Iwi Hanau O Ka'Aina*, born of the land. We, the generational people of Ka'u and Ka Lae have never left and our ancestors, our *Kupuna Iwi* have been buried in the sand dunes and in the Pali for countless generations.

Now, and for many many years, tourists attracted to the beauty of Ka Lae consistently invade our sacred areas on the coastline via the access road which belongs to DHHL, despite no trespassing signs. This free-for-all vehicular access, including heavy trucks, ATV's, motorcycles, and even Tourist vans have cause incredible damage and erosion to our wahi pana. Palahemo and Pu'u Ali'i are just two of the better-known sacred sites of Ka Lae. Our *Kupuna Iwi* are falling into the ocean because of the terrible erosion; our coastal lands are being desecrated constantly; our *lawai'a* cannot even get to our fishing *koa* because the traditional trails have been taken over by recreational users who do not care for the land, just to use it for their own purposes. These same people leave mounds of toilet paper to and from Mahana Bay. There is no respect shown to the *keiki o ka aina*.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our frustration, and to urge this committee to adopt SCR 231 and SR 191. We wish to share our unique heritage that dates to the beginning, before the Tahitians arrived in Hawaii. DHHL must accept their kuleana to protect this sacred coastline for us, for Ka'u and for Hawaii Nei.

Respectfully yours,

Darlyne Vierra, Aha Moku Representative, Ka'u  
Jeffrey Kekoa, Aha Moku Representative, Ka'u, and a beneficiary of Hawaiian Homestead of Ka'u  
Elizabeth Kuluwaimaka, Aha Moku Representative of Ka'u  
Aloha Beck, Aha Moku Representative of Ka'u  
Jesse Ke, Kupuna, Generational 'Ohana of Ka'u  
Kawini Ibarra, Generational 'Ohana of Ka'u

Contact: 808-640-8740