

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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CHAIRPERSON
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Tuesday, March 17, 2026
3:01 PM
State Capitol, Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 20
AND
SENATE RESOLUTION 17
STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE COUNTY OF HAWAII'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE
KEALAKEHE REGIONAL PARK PROJECT.

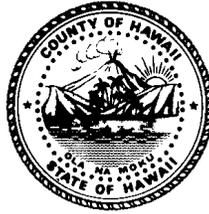
Senate Concurrent Resolution 20 and Senate Resolution 17 strongly support the County of Hawaii's efforts to develop the Kealakehe Regional Park project. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources ("Department") supports these resolutions and offers the following comments.**

The Department would like to clarify that the 190-acres described in the two resolutions are state-owned lands currently set-aside to the County of Hawaii via Governor's Executive Order No. 4355 for public purposes including the Kealakehe wastewater reclamation field, North Kona golf course and/or public park purposes. Therefore, we recommend the following edits to the resolutions:

Starting on page 1, Line 3:

"...~~county~~ state-owned land, set-aside to the County of Hawaii, in North Kona, bounded by Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 13, 2026

[COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS](#)

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

RE: **Support for SCR20/SR17, STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE KEALAKEHE REGIONAL PARK PROJECT.**

Hearing: **March 17, 2026 at 3:01 p.m.**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i County Council and the residents of Hawai'i Island, I write in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 20 and Senate Resolution 17, which support the County of Hawai'i's efforts to develop the Kealakehe Regional Park project in West Hawai'i.

West Hawai'i continues to experience significant population growth, yet the region remains underserved in terms of large-scale recreational and community facilities. The Kealakehe Regional Park project represents a critical opportunity to provide much-needed recreational space, youth sports facilities, and community gathering areas for families and residents across the district.

The development of this regional park will not only expand access to recreational opportunities, but will also enhance the health and well-being of our community, support youth athletics, and create a safe and welcoming environment where residents can gather, exercise, and connect. Projects such as this are essential to improving quality of life and ensuring that our infrastructure keeps pace with the needs of our growing population.

The County of Hawai'i has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing this project, and continued collaboration with the State will be essential to moving the Kealakehe Regional Park forward. SCR20/SR17 appropriately recognizes the importance of this initiative and affirms the State's support for this vital community investment.

Mahalo for your consideration of this measure and for your continued partnership in strengthening our communities across Hawai‘i Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holeka Goro Inaba", written in a cursive style.

HOLEKA GORO INABA, Ed.D.,
Council Chair, District 8, North Kona

HGI.wpb

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740*

March 16, 2026

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS COUNCIL MEMBER,

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

ON SCR20 RELATING TO COUNTY OF HAWAII; NORTH KONA; KEALAKEHE REGIONAL PARK

Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SCR 20, and the development of the Kealakehe Regional Park project in North Kona.

West Hawai'i has long needed a regional park that can serve the rapidly growing communities of Kona. The proposed Kealakehe Regional Park would provide much-needed athletic fields, courts, recreational areas, and gathering spaces for residents of all ages. Facilities like these are essential for youth sports, community health, cultural events, and family recreation.

For many years, community members, sports league and non-profit organizations have advocated for this project. Despite this strong support, progress has been slow, and the land remains underutilized while demand for recreational space continues to increase. The development of this park would help address the shortage of safe, accessible spaces for physical activities and organized sports in the West Hawai'i.

Kealakehe Regional Park also aligns with statewide goals to promote active lifestyles, improve public health, and expand equitable access to outdoor recreation. Investing in this project will strengthen community wellbeing and create a shared space that brings residents together.

I respectfully urge the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs to support this resolution and encourage the County of Hawai'i to move forward with funding, partnerships, and phased development to make this long-planned regional park a reality.

Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Villegas', with a stylized, cursive script.

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

SCR-20

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:54:14 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig Bo Kahui	Testifying for West Hawaii Parks & Athletic Corp, Laiopua Community Development Corporation	Support	In Person

Comments:

On behalf of West Hawaii Parks and Athletic Corporation and Laiopua Community Development Corporation, we are in strong support of SCR 20

Mahalo

Craig "Bo" Kahui, Pres.