

Preserving the North Kohala Coast

Preserving the North Kohala Coast has over a 50 year documented history of community support for and work to preserve this incredible coastline in open space and keep it free of any development makai of Akoni Pule Highway. The 50 years worth of petitions, government resolutions, letters, and plans are summarized below.

For decades, four of Kohala's most beloved kupuna and community leaders have worked to preserve the Kohala Coastline in open space. Their names and signatures are on many of the documents, petitions, and letters summarized below. These kupuna are: Marie Solomon, William Akau, Armstrong Yamamoto, Clyde Sproat.

In 2013, ANOTHER 76 ACRES AT KAIHOLENA WERE PRESERVED THROUGH THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE COMMUNITY AND HAWAII COUNTY. Funding came from the County's 2% fund and the State's Legacy Lands Fund.

In 2012 HALELUA PUBLIC ACCESS AND HISTORIC SITES PRESERVED WITH A 255 ACRE AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION EASEMENT, which includes one mile of coast and Halawa Gulch. The Federal funding was secured in cooperation with the Hawaii Islands Land Trust.

In 2012, LOCAL FUNDRAISING ENABLED THE COMPLETION OF THE SALE AND PRESERVATION OF 27 ACRES AT KAUHOLA POINT, which IS now owned and stewarded by the community-based nonprofit Maika'i Kamakani O Kohala. The Trust for Public Lands was instrumental in securing protection for this land.

In 2012, NINE COMMUNITY GROUPS, SPEARHEADED BY KOHALA LIHIKAI, BEGAN TRAIL WORK AND COASTAL RESTORATION OF THE MILE OF SHORELINE SEAWARD OF UPOLU AIRPORT in conjunction with State Department of Transportation, Airports Division and the National Park Service Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail.

In 2012, the HAWAII COUNTY'S PUBLIC ACCESS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION identified six Kohala properties for purchase: Halelua, Hapu'u - Kapanaiia, Keawenui (easement), Niulii, Mahukona, and Kukuipahu.

In 2011 THE STATE LEGACY LANDS FUND AWARDED \$1.44 MILLION TOWARDS THE PURCHASE AND PRESERVATION OF THE LAST 35 ACRES AT KAIHOLENA.

In 2011, SIX COMMUNITY GROUPS AND NONPROFITS LAUNCHED A NEW 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, KOHALA LIHIKAI, TO UNDERTAKE COMMUNITY-BASED PRESERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP OF KOHALA LANDS.

In 2011, the HAWAII COUNTY'S PUBLIC ACCESS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION identified six Kohala properties for purchase: Hapu'u - Kapanaiia, Keawenui (easement), Niulii, Kaiholena, Mahukona, and Kukuipahu.

In 2010, THE STATE LEGACY LANDS FUND AWARDED \$1.65 MILLION AND \$800,000 TOWARDS THE PURCHASE AND PRESERVATION OF KAIHOLENA AND KAUHOLA, RESPECTIVELY.

In 2010, THE THREE NORTHERN PARCELS OF KAIHOLENA WERE PURCHASED FOR

PRESERVATION IN PERPETUITY WITH 2% LAND FUNDS. This purchase was the result of years of work by the community to secure government support for a purchase and to secure funds for the landowner to create a win-win solution for all.

In **2010**, the **HAWAII COUNTY'S PUBLIC ACCESS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION** identified five Kohala properties for purchase: Kapanāia, Keawenui, Kaiholena, Mahukona, and Kukuipahu.

In **2009**, the **HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL PASSED RESOLUTION 106-09 DIRECTING THE PURCHASE OF PAO'O AND KAIHOLENA.** Testimony by community members and kupuna was instrumental in passing this ordinance.

In **2009**, **STUDENTS FROM KOHALA MIDDLE SCHOOL CREATED A DVD DOCUMENTING THEIR DESIRE TO PRESERVE THE NORTH KOHALA COAST.** Lani Bowman and Elizabeth Pickett of Ocean Warriors and Orlando Smith of O Smith Productions were instrumental in producing the video.

In **2009**, the **HAWAII COUNTY'S PUBLIC ACCESS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION** identified four Kohala properties for purchase: Pao'o, Kaiholena, Mahukona, and Kukuipahu.

In **2009**, **HOUSE BILL 26 TO DOWNZONE STATE LANDS TO CONSERVATION TO ENSURE NO DEVELOPMENT OF STATE LANDS MAKAI OF AKONI PULE HIGHWAY** between Kohala Ranch and Kukuipahu-Haena was re-introduced.

In **2008**, the **HAWAII COUNTY'S PUBLIC ACCESS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION** again identified Pao'o as a top priority for permanent protection by the County.

In **2008**, **THE NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN** prioritized acquiring coastal lands and preserving them in open space free of development. Four parcels were recommended for purchase and preservation free of development: Kukuipahu-Haena, Mahukona, Pao'o, and Kaiholena. The plan also identified a trails for public use along the entire Kohala coastline and establishment of a historical and cultural district.

In **2008**, the **HAWAII COUNTY'S PUBLIC ACCESS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION** identified the four North Kohala coastal parcels as the top four priorities for permanent protection by the County. These properties are: Kukuipahu-Haena, Mahukona, Pao'o, and Kaiholena.

In **2008**, **HOUSE BILL 2606** called for the downzoning of State North Kohala coastal lands to Conservation to ensure open space protection and eliminate the threat of development.

In **2008**, **HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL PASSED ORDINANCE 237** to downzone a coastal parcel because of the need to better protect the coast.

In **2006**, the **HAWAII COUNTY'S PUBLIC ACCESS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION** identified the three private in-holding in Lapakahi as a high priority for purchase for permanent protection. The Commission also identified Mahukona, Kamano, Kou, Hihui, and Kamona ahupua'a along the Kohala Coast as priorities for purchase.

In **2006, THIRTY (30) KOHALA BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS** signed a letter requesting Mayor Kim to prioritize the North Kohala Coast for permanent protection.

In **2001, SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 146, S.D. 1**, passed both houses of the State Legislature, urging the retention and preservation of open space and view planes, historic sites, and traditional access along the coastline of the North Kohala District and again called for collaboration to discourage subdivision and building development.

In **2001, CHAIRPERSON of the STATE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**, Mr. Gilbert Coloma-Agaran, testified before the State Senate Committee of Water, Land, Energy and Environment, in support of SR 146 and pledged DLNR's support to coordinate with the residents of Kohala and County of Hawaii. His testimony also recognized the importance of the numerous natural, scenic, historic and cultural resources abounding in Kohala and its coast.

In **2001, the ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS** (representatives of all Civic Clubs) passed a resolution urging the Hawaii County Council to redesignate the North Kohala Coastline to Conservation/Open. The resolution recognized a long history of community support for preserving the Kohala Coast and that the North Kohala coastline is historically and culturally very important to all people of Hawaii, but particularly to Native Hawaiians.

In **2001, the KOHALA HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB, KOHALA FILIPINA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, KOHALA PUERTO RICAN SOCIAL CLUB, KOHALA HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION GROUP AND REVERED KUPUNA WILLIAM AKAU** requested the Hawaii County Council to place a moratorium on all subdividing and development makai of Akoni Pule Highway from Kawaihae to Pololu Valley.

In **2001** and then again in **2002, the KOHALA COMMUNITY REPRESENTED BY REVERED KUPUNA** and community members signed and sent a letter to the County documenting Kohala's 30+ years of work to protect the Kohala Coast. This letter recognized that people from all over the Island (Ka'u, Hilo, Puna, Hamakua, Kona) still come to Kohala with their families to fish and camp.

In **2002, the KOHALA HISTORIC AND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE** submitted a petition with **more than 1,000 signatures, which were collected in 14 days**, requesting the County protect and preserve the Kohala Coastline.

In **2002, the COUNTY OF HAWAII PLANNING COMMISSION with the agreement of the HAWAII COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTOR** recognized the significance of the feeling of open space that is so important to North Kohala and incorporated SR 146 into the Hawaii County General Plan.

In **2000, the KOHALA HISTORIC AND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE collected well over six hundred signatures from Kohala residents, which were collected in 16 days**, and submitted them as part of a community response to the update of the Hawaii County Comprehensive Plan, urging the preservation and protection of the region from Kawaihae to Pololu Valley.

In **1994, SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 116** called on the Department of Land and Natural Resources to consider public acquisition of the Kohala Coast prior to construction of any additional infrastructure.

In **1994, SENATE RESOLUTION 85** urged DNLR to consider Kohala Coastal acquisitions.

In **1993, HAWI TOWN CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS** identified the "undeveloped coastline" as a defining element of the town character.

In **1992, SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 211** called on the County and State to develop a plan to protect the open space and historic sites makai of Akoni Pule Highway and to promote non-exclusive public enjoyment of the area AND that the County and State should discourage any subdividing and building until such a plan is in place.

In **1992, THE NORTHWEST HAWAII OPEN SPACE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**, calls for a comprehensive effort to protect valuable North Kohala coastal areas as open space for public use and enjoyment.

In **1991, THE GOVERNOR CALLED FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE NORTH KOHALA COAST IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS.**

In **1990, LOCAL RESIDENTS PRODUCED A VIDEO FEATURING CLYDE SPROAT AND WILLIAM AKAU** (revered kupuna) documenting the community's desire to protect the Kohala Coast.

In **1990, the HAWAII STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY and the HAWAII COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY both adopted resolutions** at their conventions calling for the State and County to develop and implement a plan to protect the open nature of the coast, preserve its valuable historic sites and promote nonexclusive enjoyment of it by residents and visitor alike."

In **1990, DECISION – ACTION 90's**, a report to Hawaii County, calls on the State and County to "quickly and clearly establish areas in the County that are never to be developed" and cites Kohala as an example where development should be discouraged.

In **1990 NORTH KOHALA COASTLINE CONFERENCE** – recommendations to form a special area designation for the coast such as scenic heritages or historic corridor.

In **1989, the HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE** passed a resolution calling for **protection of the coastline from development** and calling for a survey of the coast. The resolution was **passed unanimously**.

In **1989, the WEST HAWAII REGIONAL PLAN** says the State and County have already over-committed West Hawaii in resort and resort-residential development and shows no resort-residential development in North Kohala. The plan identifies the cliffs and valleys of Kohala Mountain and the panoramic coastal views from Kohala Mountain as highest on its list of "important scenic heritage resources."

In **1988, almost 6,000 HAWAII ISLAND SIGNATURES WERE COLLECTED FOR A PETITION CALLING FOR A BUILDING MORATORIUM makai of Akoni Pule Highway**. The signature were collected by the Citizens for the Protection of the North Kohala Coast and over half of the signatures were from Kohala.

In **1988, SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 179** passed both houses of the State Legislature and called on governments to work together to ensure public view and open space along the coast and to **discourage development makai of Akoni Pule Highway**.

In **1988**, DLNR commissioned the study “**NORTH KOHALA: PERCEPTIONS OF A CHANGING COMMUNITY**”, which indicated the intent of past state administrations and DLNR staff to preserve and protect the North Kohala Coast. This study also stated that **the North Kohala Coast has the most numerous and intact, pre-contact archeological and cultural sites in the state.**

In **1983**, **THE NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**, adopted by resolution by the County Planning Commission, which implements the General Plan for the North Kohala District, recommended for OPEN classification the entire length of the North Kohala Coast.

In **1972**, the DLNR study entitled “**NORTH KOHALA, PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES**” indicated the intent of past state administrations and DLNR staff to preserve and protect the North Kohala Coast.

Early 1970’s newspaper articles discuss the need to preserve the coast

In **1963**, the **KOHALA-HAMAKUA REGIONAL GENERAL PLAN** stated that development and resorts should be concentrated in South Kohala and away from existing residential areas such as Hawi. No resort zoning was identified along the North Kohala Coast.

Additionally, many important community organizations have continually offered their support to preserve the North Kohala Coast and have signed and supported the above petitions and letters and resolutions. These organizations include:

- Kohala Kupuna Council
- Kohala Filipina Association
- Kohala Hawaiian Civic Club
- Kohala Puerto Rican Club
- Kohala Historic and Preservation Group
- Long time local merchants