

DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS — LONG-TERM LEASE PROPOSAL

Hawaiian Humanitarian Alliance

Mauna Kea:

Sacred Mountain, Living Ancestor

DHHL Long-Term Lease Proposal

Presented by Dr. Kalaniakea Wilson

In Partnership with Seeding Change

"Maunakea is not a place. Mauna Kea is our ancestor."

- Mauna Kea is the piko — the sacred Mauna — of the Hawaiian Islands. It is not land to be managed. It is an elder to be honored and cared for.
- For 133 years, that relationship was severed by force. Sacred sites left unprotected. Cultural practices disrupted. The mountain's guardians removed.
- This proposal is an act of regenerative restoration — returning the mountain to those who were born to care for it.
- Puuhuluhulu stands watch directly across the road. Lake Waiau rests at the summit — the most sacred waters in the Hawaiian Kingdom.

This proposal is an act of living restoration.

"Kamehameha Named Our Family to Steward This Mountain."

- Our ancestor was appointed Guardian of Lake Waiau by Kamehameha I — the sacred summit lake at the crown of Mauna Kea
- This is not a political claim. It is a spiritual lineage — a kuleana passed through generations
- DHHL is actively moving toward formal recognition of lineal descendants
- This recognition gives H.H.A. exclusive priority standing for this lease
- We are not outsiders applying. We are not newcomers. We are the ones who never left.
- H.H.A. honors the original intentions of the Hawaiian Kingdom and our Ali'i

133 Years of Dispossession. The Court Has Spoken.

1893

Illegal occupation begins. Hawaiians systematically removed from their ancestral lands.

2017 June

All Hawaiian Homestead Association Presidents vote to execute Aina Mauna Legacy Program on Mauna Kea.

2018 Mar 26

H.H.A. erects Hale o Kuhio — formally claiming the Mauna Kea Access Road as Hawaiian home lands.

2018 Mar 27

The very next day, the State rushes through the illegal highway designation — a direct response to Hawaiian assertion of rights.

2020

Kalima ruling: State found in breach of trust. \$935M settlement framework established.

2024

Kanahele ruling: Hawai'i Supreme Court — "The State blatantly breached its constitutional and fiduciary obligation." The road was never legally removed from Hawaiian home lands.

The legal path is clear. The moral path has always been clear. Now we walk it.

"The Road Belongs to Us. The Supreme Court Agrees."

KANAHELE 2024

Hawai'i Supreme Court ruled the 2018 state highway designation violated the HHCA. The road was never legally removed from Hawaiian home lands. The State blatantly breached its constitutional and fiduciary obligation.

KALIMA 2020

Supreme Court ruled the State is in breach of trust obligations to beneficiaries. \$935M settlement framework established. Potential \$80–100MM annually through continued advocacy.

HHCA 1921 §101A

The governing document mandating rehabilitation, self-governance, and economic self-sufficiency for beneficiaries. This lease is the mechanism for fulfilling that mandate — 103 years later.

**"The State blatantly disregarded unambiguous requirements of the HHCA."
— Hawai'i Supreme Court, 2024**

3,000 Acres. One Path. A Place Where All Journeys Converge.

Every visitor, worker, and researcher who ascends this mountain passes through this land. It is not just a corridor — it is a threshold between worlds.

TODAY, THE LAND IS STRAINED:

- Invasive species spread where native life once thrived
- Sacred sites call for care, presence, and protection
- The forest waits in fragments, holding memory of what it once was

REGENERATION CAN FLOW OUTWARD:

- Forests restored. Watersheds healed. Biodiversity returned.
- Culture lived, not preserved — guiding stewardship and relationship
- Community engaged as caretakers, not bystanders
- Economy aligned with life, generating value by restoring it

The vision is simple, and ancient: Restore the forest. Honor the sacred. Reweave people and place.

When the land heals, the people heal. And when the people heal, the land remembers how to live.

Koa Kiai — Guardians of the Forest

Hawaiian Humanitarian Alliance — A Living Governance Vision

Koa Kiai — an active 501(c)3 nonprofit — holds the lease as a stewardship body for the land and its future

H.H.A.: a living governance framework rooted in cultural continuity, community voice, and long-term care

Guided entirely by Native Hawaiian beneficiaries — of this island, for this island — place-based, lineage-informed, community-directed

Transition pathway: HHCA Section 101A — advancing self-determination and restored Hawaiian authority

Koa Kiai meaning: to guard and protect — as the Koa tree shelters and restores the forest around it

Founding stewards: Dr. Kalaniakea Wilson & Kapa Kaolulo

Governance model: grounded in LUAKINI systems intelligence — designed as a regenerative system of governance aligned with place

Community trust: OHA Trustee Dan Ahuna | Governor | Mayor | East Hawai'i Homestead Associations | Royal Order of Hawai'i — all districts | OHA, DLNR, Governor's office

The Engines That Make Everything Else Possible

01

Access & Stewardship Management

Every vehicle entering the Access Road contributes a stewardship fee ensuring safety, cultural protection, and land care. Projected \$3.5M/year from parking and access management alone, modeled on the Ha'ena stewardship system (~\$7M/year scale). This creates immediate Day 1 revenue reinvested into operations, conservation, and cultural stewardship.

\$3.5M / YEAR PROJECTED

02

Cultural Tourism Ecosystem

Walking, astronomy, cultural, biking, horseback, and koa reforestation experiences, structured to be operated and subleased through Native Hawaiian operators and community enterprises. This ensures direct Native Hawaiian participation in place-based, regenerative tourism and restores economic access we have historically been excluded from across Hawai'i.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN OPERATORS

03

Conservation & Partnership Revenue

Invasive species management contracts, koa reforestation and carbon initiatives, and formal stewardship agreements with institutions and operators currently using or benefiting from Hawaiian lands — including UH, D.O.D., telescopes, and tourism entities.

CARBON CREDITS + PARTNERSHIPS

These agreements transition existing land use into structured stewardship contributions that fund long-term restoration and community resilience.

Sacred Responsibility and Economic Self-Sufficiency Are Two Parts of Sound Hawaiian Political Economy

The H.H.A. model is built on protecting the sacred and sustaining community goals. They are one Mission — expressed two ways.

Capital resources are recirculated by this ecosystem and:

- Flows through Koa Kiai back to Native Hawaiian community programs
- Builds an ecosystem of Native and Local owned Regenerative Businesses
- Creates Jobs, Economic Impact, & Community Resilience
- Builds the housing pipeline for 11,000 waitlisted families

This is not a business that happens to care about culture. This is a culture that has built an ecosystem of business to protect itself.

Just as the Koa tree gives strength to the forest, this regenerative enterprise gives strength to the people.

A Regenerative Economy Rooted in the 'Āina

KOA KIAI / H.H.A.

The Root System

- Holds the lease. Manages access. Funds the ecosystem.
- Toll booth | Parking | Bathrooms
- Washing station | Food truck
- Gift shop | Playground | Workout area

FOR-PROFIT SUBLEASE

The Branches

- Walking, biking, horseback tours
- Astronomy & cultural tours
- Eco-Restoration tours
- Forestry & Agriculture (Iliahi, apples, peaches, pears)

NONPROFIT SUBLEASE

The Canopy

- Koa/Iliahi reforestation
- Cultural education & monitoring
- Gorse removal | Invasive species control
- Ungulate management | Security

JOINT VENTURES

The Fruit

- Reforestation + Koa tours
- Cultural monitoring + walking tours
- Native species restoration
- Educational partnerships

As the forest sustains itself through relationship, so does this economy.

Year 1–2: Build the Foundation

PHASE 1 CAPITAL: \$1.5M

Toll booth + parking	\$500K
Bathrooms + washing station	\$500K
Food truck + gift shop	\$250K
Year 1 operations	\$250K
TOTAL PHASE 1	\$1.5M

REVENUE PROJECTIONS

Parking/toll — Year 1

\$1.75M

All streams — Year 2

\$2.5–3.5M

Haena benchmark

~\$7M/yr

Startup Cost Advantage: Several Phase 1 costs are offset through existing relational capital, community contributions of resources and manpower, and a broad base of organizational support — accelerating our path to operational self-sufficiency faster than a conventional startup model.

FUNDING SOURCES

Grant-in-Aid | OHA Grant | DHHL grants | Kalima \$935M settlement | State & Federal funding | Private donors | Community capital & in-kind services | Strategic grant development pipeline

The Haena model — our proof of concept — generates approximately \$7M/year from comparable access management.

Reciprocal Relationships Replace Extraction

For 133 years, Mauna Kea's resources have flowed outward — to universities, governments, observatories, and tourism companies — with little return to the Hawaiian people. This proposal creates formal, pono relationships.

13 Telescope Operators

\$3.9B+ invested | Japan, India, Canada, US, UK, South Korea, Taiwan, Argentina, Brazil, Chile — fair access agreements now required.

University of Hawai'i

Maunakea Management — Stephanie Nagata meeting completed. Formal agreements pending lease award.

D.O.D. / Pohakuloa

300,000 adjacent acres. Infrastructure and stewardship partnership opportunity.

Three Mountain Alliance | Maunakea Watershed | Kaniho Ranchers

Existing ecosystem relationships to be formalized under new stewardship framework.

Native Hawaiian Tour Operators

Restore the licenses wrongly withheld. Hawaiian guides on Hawaiian land — for the first time.

HTA + Tourism Industry

Convert 1M+ annual visitors into conscious participants in Hawaiian stewardship.

When those who benefit from the mountain contribute to its care, the relationship becomes pono.

The Deepest Return on Investment

The deepest purpose of this project is not revenue. It is the restoration of a people's connection to their land, their ancestors, and themselves.



Cultural Practice Restored

Pule, mele lahui, moolelo, hookupu, oli — woven into every aspect of daily operations. The mountain becomes a living classroom for Hawaiian identity.



Kupuna Honored

Elders lead the advisory board. Their knowledge — held through 133 years of suppression — becomes the foundation of everything built here.



Youth with Kuleana

Hawaiian children growing up with jobs, identity, and responsibility on their ancestral land. A generation who knows who they are.



Spiritual Strength

When Hawaiians steward Mauna Kea, the disconnection that drives poverty, illness, and despair begins to heal.



Housing Pipeline

Revenue pathway supporting rehabilitation of 11,000 homes for waitlisted families — what DHHL was created to deliver in 1921.



A Nation Restored

This lease begins Hawaiian self-governance on Hawai'i Island — a model for every community waiting for their moment.

A people who can care for their sacred mountain can care for themselves. This is how a nation heals.

HERE IS WHAT "YES" ACTUALLY MEANS

One lease. One decision. One word.

YES

Yes means 3,000 acres of sacred land under Hawaiian stewardship — beginning this year.

YES

Yes means the first Native Hawaiian beneficiary-owned toll booth and cultural center on Mauna Kea — operational within 12 months.

YES

Yes means every tour guide on this mountain speaks Hawaiian. Every visitor learns the real name of what they are standing on. Every dollar spent here stays here.

YES

Yes means gorse removal begins. Koa planting begins. The birds start coming back.

YES

Yes means a governing pathway — the first step toward what the HHCA promised in 1921 and the State has owed for 103 years.

YES

Yes means 11,000 families on the waiting list have a funding pathway toward the homes they were always supposed to have.

YES

Yes means the Supreme Court's ruling becomes real on the ground, not just on paper.

LET'S BE HONEST WITH EACH OTHER

There is no version of this where waiting makes sense.

● The legal case is settled.

● The Supreme Court has ruled.

● The HHCA has always required this.

● The community is unified.

● The plan is comprehensive.

● The proof of concept exists at Haena.

● The founding family has been on this mountain since before the Kingdom.

There is no stronger proposal. There is no better time. There is no more obvious choice.

The only thing that has ever stood between the Hawaiian people and this mountain is the willingness to say yes loudly enough, clearly enough, and with enough conviction that it cannot be ignored.

We are saying it now. And we are ready for the answer to be yes.

Mauna Kea has been waiting for us.

We have been waiting for this moment.

The wait is over.

103 years ago, a promise was made to the Hawaiian people.

Today, we make it real by standing together.