



**KONA-KOHALA
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

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ORIGINAL

March 22, 2016

**Testimony to Land Use Commission
Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.**

RE: A89-646 Queen Lili'uokalani Trust (Hawai'i)

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MAR 23 2016

Aloha & Good Afternoon members of the Land Use Commission!

**STATE OF HAWAII
LAND USE COMMISSION**

My name is Kirstin Kahaloa and I serve as the Executive Director of the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce (KKCC). On behalf of the Chamber, I am here to provide testimony in support of the Queen Lili'uokalani Trust's motion to remove Urban Phase III lands from the 1991 Decision & Order.

The KKCC is West Hawai'i Island's leading business organization, representing over 540 businesses in our community. As the largest business organization on Hawai'i Island and fourth largest chamber in the State, the KKCC exists to provide leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i.

The LUC's approval to remove the Urban Phase III lands, will allow the Trust to move forward with both its Keahuolū Land Plan and Makalapua Project District development projects.

The positive outcomes of the LUC's approval, besides attracting more business and community development are the following:

- Grow and diversify the local economy here in Kona. Ultimately, we want our children to see that they don't have to leave Kona to find opportunity and a quality of life.
- Provide the opportunity to bring more jobs and careers to Kona, as well as attract new industries.
 - An example is the recent announcement of a new \$20 million Kona Brewing Co. facility on the Trust's lands in the Old Industrial Area. This new facility will produce 100,000 barrels of locally brewed beer annually and will provide more direct and in-direct jobs and visibility for Kona.
- Support over 2,000 jobs that currently reside on Trust lands. The Old Industrial Area, in many ways represents the 'working core' of Kona. It is full of fun places like Kona Brew, hardworking auto shops, dry cleaners and more. It is the place where Kona works.

We want to help these types of businesses and people continue to succeed and grow, while encouraging new opportunities as the Trust proceeds with its two development projects. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of over 540 businesses in our community and I encourage the LUC to consider these points in your deliberations on this matter.

Mahalo,

Kirstin Kahaloa
Executive Director
Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce