



MEDIA RELEASE

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Maunaloa-Makapuu State Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan Open for Public Comment

HONOLULU – The Maunaloa-Makapuu State Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (CMP) is now available for public review and comment. The Maunaloa-Makapuu State Scenic Byway (MMSB) is a 6.8-mile stretch of Kalanianaʻole Highway that wraps around the eastern tip of Oahu between the communities of Maunaloa (Hawaiʻi Kai) and Waimanalo. The designation of this corridor as a State Scenic Byway will help efforts to protect and preserve the Ka Iwi area.

To receive a scenic byway designation, there is a process that takes several years to complete. Part of the process is to have a local sponsor, usually a non-profit organization, organize a Scenic Byway Committee and write and maintain a corridor management plan. Livable Hawaii Kai Hui, a grassroots non-profit group dedicated to upholding the East Honolulu Sustainable Plan, is the local sponsor.

“The designation process was started by Greg Knudsen as a Neighborhood Board project to honor the past four decades of grassroots community groups working to preserve the Ka Iwi Coast from development,” said Elizabeth Reilly of Livable Hawaii Kai Hui. “The emphasis of the application, as well as the CMP, is on preserving and protecting the Ka Iwi Coast in its natural state.”

The environmental and community planning firm, Townscape, Inc., was contracted by Livable Hawaii Kai Hui, at no cost to HDOT, to provide guidance and keep all the moving parts of the process on track and to consolidate all the different ideas presented. From this, projects were identified that met all or a majority of the long-term goals:

- To preserve the undeveloped, natural state of the land
- Provide a safe and enjoyable experience
- Protect cultural and natural resources
- Educate the public about the cultural significance of the area
- Demonstrate and teach stewardship of the area

“We worked very hard to be as inclusive as possible and get the word out to local stakeholders that we were working on a draft corridor management plan. We included neighborhood boards and community organizations from both Maunaloa and Waimanalo such as Friends of Hanauma Bay, maunaloa.net, and 808cleanups; government agencies such as the Department of Land and Natural Resources, HDOT, and the City and County Department of Parks & Recreation; and, local commercial interests such as Koko Marina Shopping Center, Hawaii American Water, the Chamber of Commerce, and Sea Life Park; as well as local residents and our government officials,” said Carol Jaxon, MMSB outreach coordinator.

The public can get involved by downloading a copy of the draft plan, reviewing it and providing feedback via the form on the website: www.kaiwicoast.org or send an email of the form or questions to: ka.iwi.coast.coalition@gmail.com. The deadline for the public comment period is December 8, 2017.

The plan will be a living document that government and community groups can refer to when making decisions or planning anything involving the Ka Iwi Coast.

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About Livable Hawaii Kai Hui

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, grassroots community organization serving East Honolulu since 2004. It strives to promote sensible growth and respect for the land. Its mission is to uphold the integrity of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan, which sets guidelines for sensible development respectful of cultural and natural resources that make East Honolulu a unique place to live. In 2014, through a similar partnership with the State, City and TPL, the group purchased Hawea heiau complex and Keawawa wetland and has the kuleana of caring for special places throughout Maunaloa including Aloha Aina O Kamilonui Nursery and Pahua heiau in partnership with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is the umbrella nonprofit for Ka Iwi Coalition, the successor of grassroots groups that led the “Save Sandy Beach” and “No Cabins on Ka Iwi” campaigns. www.hawaiikaihui.org. In early 2017, alongside public and community partners, LHK acquired and closed on the Ka Iwi Coast Mauika lands.

About Hawaii’s State Scenic Byways

Hawaii State Scenic Byway is a state designation approved by the State Byway Advisory Committee and the Director of Transportation. The application and review process mirrors the national process for designation of a National Scenic Byway. This allows the State Scenic Byways Program to compete for federal grant funding if it becomes available.