



KILAUEA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

President:

Yoshito L'Hote

Vice President:

Alvin Castelo

Secretary:

Thomas Pickett

Treasurer:

Gary Pacheco

Sergeant-at-arms

Scott Mijares

PTSA Rep.

Tricia Padilla

Directors:

Mike Latif

Beryl Blaich

Bill Troutman

Tim Kalai

Ken Carlson

Charlie Martin

Carrie Souza

Ron Paul

Joi Bonaparte

Mason K. Chock, Councilmember,
County of Kauai
4396 Rice St, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766

December 2nd, 2015

RE: Kilauea River Easement

Dear Councilmember Chock,

The community of Kilauea has a long standing interest in overall community health, public access and recreation. For many years, a favorite destination for the local community was Rock Quarry Beach and the Kilauea River Valley. The valley runs from the beach, along the river, to Kilauea Falls, which is about a mile mauka. Because this property was vacant, previous owners were lenient in allowing access to this property.

The property was sold in 2004 to an owner that relishes his privacy. In 2011, construction of his house began. Since then, the river valley has been closed to any and all public access. Walks to the falls and fishing along the banks of the river are no longer allowed. There is on-site security that monitors any trespassing and confrontations are a common occurrence.

Frustrated by the lack of access to the river, the KNA began looking at alternatives. Several years ago it was discovered that a public easement exists over this property and has been in place since 1978. It is referred to as the "P-1" easement, and is granted to the County for public access along the river. This easement starts at Kahili Quarry Rd, runs down to the river, and follows the river for .6 miles. The easement is 20 ft wide and follows the river edge so it is fluid. This easement is not marked and is totally overgrown with vegetation. Because this easement is not clearly identified, there is continued friction and confusion between the community and the property owner concerning public access and private trespassing.

We have discussed this issue with various County representatives and departments, including Planning and Public Works. We have requested that the County survey this easement, clearly mark its boundaries, and clear the easement so that it may be enjoyed and used by the Kilauea community without being threatened or harassed by private security personnel. Our requests have not resulted in any action by the County.

The current property owner has clearly stated (Update to Sixth Annual Status Report) that they acknowledge this easement, and has *“offered to cooperate with DPW should it wish to survey, stake and improve this easement (by allowing access across the Property for such purposes).”*

The KNA respectfully requests your assistance in this matter. Surveying, permanently marking, and clearing this public easement would allow the community to once again enjoy the beauty and recreational opportunities that the Kilauea River valley offers. Your help in accomplishing this work in a timely manner would be most appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your timely consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Yoshito L'Hote
President