

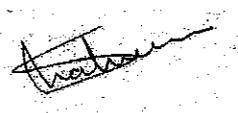
**Testimony of  
Shahin Ansari, Ph.D  
SWCA  
SLUC Docket No. A10-787 Maui R&T Partners, LLC.**

In the Matter of the Petition of Maui R&T Partners, LLC. to Amend the State Land Use District  
Boundary of Lands Situated at Kihei, Island of Maui, State of Hawaii, Consisting of 253.05 Acres  
from the Agricultural District to the Urban District,  
Tax Map Key Nos. (2) 2-2-024: 016 and 017, and (2) 2-2-002: 054 (por.)

My name is Shahin Ansari and I am a biologist with SWCA and I conducted additional botanical reconnaissance survey of the property on February 23 and March 31, 2011 (included as Appendix C-2 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement). I have been conducting botanical surveys in Hawaii since the year 2000. A copy of my resume is attached.

The USFWS comment letter to the EISPN indicated that additional surveys should be conducted to determine the presence of endangered species on the Maui Research and Technology Park (MRTP) property. In response to the letter the Applicant retained SWCA to conduct additional survey work. I will briefly summarize the findings of the surveys.

The project area was found to be dominated by non-native kiawe (*Prosopis pallida*) and buffelgrass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*). An additional nine (9) plant species not previously reported, all of which were non-native, were identified. The Obscure Morning Glory (*Ipomoea obscura*), a possible host plant for the adult Blackburn's sphinx moth (BSM) (*Manduca blackburni*), was found to be rare; however, no species confirmed as larval host plants for the BSM were found within the MRTP properties. No listed or candidate endangered plant species were observed within the property.



Shahin Ansari, Ph.D.  
Plant Ecologist / Project Manager  
SWCA Environmental Consultants  
1001 Bishop Street, Suite 2008  
Honolulu, HI, 96813  
Ph: (808) 548-7922, Fax: (808) 548-7921, Email: [sansari@swca.com](mailto:sansari@swca.com)

### Education / Training

- Ph.D., Botany (Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology Program), University of Hawaii at Manoa; Honolulu, Hawaii, 2007

### Registration / Certification

- PSMJ Project Management Boot Camp, 2009
- SWCA Wetlands Regulations web and audio seminar, 2009

### Expertise

- Vegetation ecology
- Plant population ecology
- Invasion biology

### Relevant Projects

- Hawaii Department of Transportation's Statewide Noxious Invasive Pest Program (SNIPP), Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Comprehensive botanical survey of Honuaula, and Development of Conservation Management Plan for Honuaula, Wailea, Maui.
- Developing coastal restoration techniques to enhance coastal habitats at Ahua Reef, Oahu.
- Reducing fuel loads of the fire-prone guinea grass (*Urochloa maxima*), Marine Corps Training Area Bellows (MCTAB); Kaneohe, Hawaii.
- Botanical Surveys: Hokulia, North and South Kona, Hawaii; Seabury Hall, Maui; survey for endangered *Abutilon menziesii* in Ewa plains, Oahu.
- Vegetation Management Strategy for Marine Corps Training Area Bellows (MCTAB), Oahu.

Dr. Ansari is a senior botanist and project manager in SWCA's Honolulu office. She is responsible for providing ecological expertise on various natural resource management and conservation projects, including Hawaiian flora, invasive and endangered species, wetlands, habitat restoration and environmental mitigation, regulations, and policies. She is also responsible for managing projects from planning stage to submitting deliverables according to strict deadlines and within budget, subcontractors and consultants and liaise with project stakeholders, including client and state and federal agency staff.

Dr. Ansari is a recognized expert in invasion biology and serves as project manager on Hawaii Department of Transportation's first major ecological project to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species and to sustainably manage natural resources along their highways. She spearheaded milestone accomplishments that include HDOT's 10-year Invasive Species Strategic Plan, Best Management Practices, a 364-page *Highway Manual for Sustainable Landscape Maintenance*, training workshops, and education and outreach materials.

At SWCA, she has acquired extensive experience leading and coordinating comprehensive botanical inventories, describing various vegetation types, and quantifying abundance and mapping native plant species in varied ecosystems in Hawaii. She has provided technical expertise and authored vegetation management strategies and conservation and management plans.

Dr. Ansari serves as principal investigator on the Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Project to develop coastal wetland restoration techniques to enhance coastal habitats at Ahua Reef, Oahu. She is responsible for planning, design, and execution of this research project, coordinating field data collection, data analysis and preparation of technical report.

Her doctoral work focused on the life history variation and population dynamics of an invasive weed mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) along the elevational gradient of Mauna Kea on the Island of Hawaii. Prior to joining SWCA, Dr. Ansari was the Weed Risk Assessment Specialist for the State.