



September 10, 2019

Michael Standcliff
P.O. box 202
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778

Michael Yee, Planning Director
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Mr. Michael Yee

Subject:
Docket No. A19-807
Trustees of the Estate of Bernice Pauahi Bishop dba Kamehameha Schools
Sanford's Service Center Leilani Quarry
Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice
Kauaea, Puna, Hawai'i
Tax Map Key: (3) 1-3-009: por. 005

I'm writing in opposition to the application submitted for the expansion of the Sanfords Quarry located between Leilani and Kau'ele'au. I have been living next to the land being reviewed for 19 years. During those 19 years the noise coming from Sanfords has not gone unnoticed. Most of the week and starting early you can hear a sometimes muffled sound of beeping noises coupled with the sound of large tractors and machinery clanking together in the distance. Sanfords has been doing business there for many years and the entire community of Kau'ele'au although louder at times has been plagued by that sound for years.

I have attached 2 photos. One photo is from the ground level of the property and the other is from a drone shot from above the property. In the drone photo you can see our neighbors house to the left and our property to the right. The mountain in the background of the pictures is Puu Kaliu located at the quarry site. All of the trees from just behind the house to the mountain would be eliminated if this expansion is approved.

As you can see in the photos the topography of the land and the way the operation is set up now allows for a buffer zone of forest between our properties. Bringing the operation any more east, south and or southeast will place the operation on more of a slope toward us and would essentially eliminate any buffer zone between Sanfords mining operations and our property. Because of this, the sound would more than triple and would make our property more like a construction zone rather than a beautiful serene home.

Another huge concern not just for me but for all of Hawaii is that the forested area under consideration for expansion consists of mostly ohia, Lama, Kopiko, Kolea,

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COUNTY OF HAWAII

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Maua, Hapuu and many other ferns and plants with declining habitats. Living next to the forest I have seen first hand the destruction that ROD (rapid ohia death) has had on the forests around us. There are surviving ohia trees in the forests affected and any one of those ohia trees that are surviving in this area may very well be naturally immune to the ROD fungus, in other words, the key to the future of our forests, the "golden ohia" with resistance to the disease, might be hiding here in plain sight. These forests are also home to some of the only lowland populations of Hawaiian Honeycreepers, Amakihi and Apapane and other bird populations like Io's and Pueo's. The Endangered Hawaiian Hoary Bats are also common in this area and are assumed to be living and nesting in these forests as well.

As you can see in the attached photo the forest area being considered is our backyard and if approved for expansion we would expose us to the entire operation.

We also ask that you please take into consideration that we have had a rough few years starting with the Lava Flow scare as it made its way to Pahoa followed by Hurricane Izelle leaving a path of damage that took months to get back to normal and the eruption in May 2018 has left our community ravaged. Due to prevailing trade winds our property was in the path of extremely high SO₂ levels during the eruption resulting in most of our community having to leave their homes. We evacuated for three months only to return to acres of plants killed by SO₂ from fissure 8. The damage was unimaginable and now we are faced with losing even more of the forests around us. The Puna district has lost hundreds of acres of its fertile land and animal habitats during the eruption and is at this time still going through a recovery phase. We ask that you please reject the proposal for rezoning and preserve the forest around us as it should be. Our community of Kau'ele'au has been through so much and we don't want to lose any more of our peace and quiet, precious forests and native bird habitat.

Thank you so much for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Stancliff



VIEW REVIEW



AREA UNDER

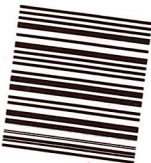
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