



E 'ONIPA'A KAKOU, A KAU I KA NU'U
Let us move together as one to reach the summit

January 28, 2022

State Land Use Commission Hearing February 2, 2022
Agenda item IV Adoption of Order

Aloha mai Commission Members,

Please approve the plan for Connections Public Charter School TMK: 2-5-006-410.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of Connections Charter school and the 370 K-12th grade students they serve annually. The Connection mission is to create an 'ohana which is conducive to the recognition and development of individual talents. Thematic and experiential learning experiences are provided which focus on how students construct knowledge using creative and critical thinking. A forum for the development of the ability to recognize and differentiate a quality result or product is offered. Classroom experiences are connected to real life experiences so that students can grow in the understanding of themselves in relation to their community and the world.

KALO has worked with Connections for over twenty years, being privileged to witness their direct impact on the community and the fantastic children they produce that now contribute to our society. Connections has always been focused on projects of the arts, conservation, and the environment with their relational world focus.

By supporting Connections, the Land Commission would due its diligence to preserve and protect Hawaii's lands and encouraging those uses to which lands are best suited. There is no greater need in our society and specifically in Hawaii then to care for our community ensuring that our keiki have the areas they need to be safe in the current climate and educated with social emotional wellness at the forefront. Schools do not have enough space to safely bring children to campus daily. This is a critical area of state concern that should be considered in the land use decision-making process.

The Connections students will directly help the State through their projects and curriculum that focus on the preservation and maintenance of important natural systems and habitats; maintenance of valued cultural, historical, and natural resources; and maintenance of other natural resources relevant to Hawaii's economy.

Connections brings in millions of state, federal and private dollars annually directly into the community they serve, providing employment opportunities and economic development. Eighty-eight percent (189) of the students they serve are economically disadvantaged.

Connections will take care of the 'āina, honoring its history and keeping it alive through the haumana they serve. Your approval will provide a wonderful asset for the community.

Me ka ha'aha'a



64-1043 Hi'iaka Street Waimea, Hawaii
PH: 887-1117



PO Box 6511, Kamuela, Hawaii 96743
FAX: 887-0030

www.kalo.org

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