



PO Box 1494, Pahoa, HI 96778  
Phone (808) 965-3730 Fax (808) 965-3733  
[www.haaspcs.org](http://www.haaspcs.org)

State Land Use Commission Hearing  
February 2, 2022

January 28, 2022

Agenda item IV Adoption of Order

SP21-413 Connections New Century Public Charter School / Community Based Education Support Services.

Aloha Members of the State Land Use Commission,

I am testifying today asking you to approve the plan for Connections Public Charter School for the property in Kaumana off Edita Road. TMK: 2-5-006-410 containing 72.34 acres.

Connections is a long established Public Charter School in the State of Hawaii. In fact, it was one of the first five schools approved by the Board of Education in 2000. It has previously engaged in many volunteer projects that included stewardship of the rivers and ocean areas of Hilo, Hawaii. Connection's students have an eye towards the future in sustainability of our aina.

The State could be using this project as a win-win situation whereby the lower half of the property allows the school to have educational facilities and at the same time, promote agriculture, aquaculture, animal husbandry, and climate change mitigation. The upper half of the property would be an excellent educational platform to teach students about forest management and invasive species removal. Hiking paths can be carved out throughout the forest canopy to have urban people come and witness the beauty of a native forest and its inhabitants including native birds and insects. The stewardship could continue to the Kaumana caves where students could be docents about the cave and the history of the area. This is a great opportunity for the State.

When opportunities arise in the State connected to education of our culture, heritage, land, sea, and atmosphere, the State should take advantage of the situation. It will benefit these children and their children. I am hopeful that you will recognize the importance of their plan and approve the use of the property for education and land stewardship.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Hiramami". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steve Hiramami, School Director