

**From:** [Gary Reiss](#)  
**To:** [DBEDT LUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Kulanihako'i High School appeal  
**Date:** Friday, February 3, 2023 3:03:16 PM



Aloha Members of the Land Use Commission,

I am the grade level counselor for Kulanihako'i High School. I am also a homeowner and resident here in Kihei. I have taught in many local schools, including Lokelani Intermediate, and last year left my position as Department Head of Counseling at Lahainaluna High School to become part of the K.H.S. staff. I exchanged that more lucrative position for the current one because of my desire to bring my expertise in creating a new school and founding a new campus in my community, something that I have previously successfully accomplished. During my tenure at Lahainaluna, I experienced first hand the powerful connection between a community and its own high school. The support for L.H.S. by the citizens of Lahaina and the school's alumni is legendary. I am hoping for the same for Kulanihako'i.

It is my understanding that because of the Improvement Condition established by the commission a decade ago, we are being prevented from operating the school on the designated Kulahoihako'i campus. While the buildings are now ready for occupancy and use, it is the issue of safe access to the venue that is the concern, pending the construction of a grade-separated crossing of the Pi'ilani Highway. Our administration has practically addressed this and invested in a viable contingency plan to safely transport students to school. This plan will expand along with the student population in the coming years until the pedestrian crossing is realized. This would seem to remove the final obstacle in the way of the move to our permanent home.

Our active students, their parents, and staff have committed much to Kulanihako'i, and we are now closing in on the completion of the freshman year of the Class of 2026. We have already registered the incoming students of the Class of 2027 in their classes and must have the necessary space to accommodate these new freshmen.

K.H.S. is alive and well. We are far beyond any point to abort. If the move to our proper home needs only an amendment to the 2013 Condition, I respectfully request that this be addressed by the commission at this time.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Reiss

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