



ORIGINAL

LAND USE COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

2007 SEP 18 A 8:50

July 12, 2007

Aloha Commissioners,

My name is Ruth Potts. I am writing this letter in support of Kauai ATV Tours and Olie Rivera. I was in attendance at the meeting held on Kauai, to review the states permit for Kauai ATV Tours. This was my first time attending such a meeting and I missed the opportunity to speak. The following are my opinions and my observations on the area that Mr. Rivera is alleged to be in violation.

1. My husband and I are co-founders of Koloa Hawaiian Outrigger Canoe Club. We are a small club numbering approximately 40 members, adults and keiki. Our Na Opio (children) program has come back to life after 17 years because we are allowed utilize the Waita Reservoir. Previous to this, we taught the children at Poipu Beach Park. Poipu Beach Park has become too congested; it is no longer safe to practice in the bay with our 43 ft long canoes. At Waita Reservoir the waters are calm and flat. The children need not worry of steering into swimmers, surfers, or divers. Olie Rivera has allowed our organization into the gated area for the purpose of helping us perpetuate the art of "Hawaiian" canoe paddling.
2. Our club has two (2) 43 ft. long canoes, a stand-up surfboard, a lifeguard board, and 8 floaters at the shores of the reservoir. All arrangements were secured by Kauai ATV to facilitate our presence at the reservoir. This enabled us to start teaching the Na Opio. I believe we were introduced to the reservoir even before Mr. Rivera had his own business equipment at the site. This obviously shows us that he is committed to the community and the children in the area.
3. There are restrictions when using the property and we understand that this is a privilege given to our organization by the landlord and the current tenant, Kauai ATV Tours. We park our vehicles on the grassy shoulder area leading up to where we practice, so as not to block the ranchers entering and exiting from this area. We do not allow consumption of alcohol at Waita, there is a no smoking policy, and we carry our opala out when we are done.
4. Koloa Hawaiian Outrigger Canoe Club is recognized by our parent association, Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association. We participate and race our canoes in all functions here on Kauai as well as races held on Oahu and Big Island. We pay annual membership dues and are covered with liability insurance.
5. We all co-exist in this beautiful area under the jurisdiction of, the Grove Farm Co.
 - A. Koloa Hawaiian Outrigger Canoe Club- we teach the paddling culture.
 - B. The Ranchers- who lease areas for their horses and cattle.
 - C. Kauai ATV Tours- they provide jobs for our local people. They provide safe and fun tours for our visitors to really see the "backwoods" of our beautiful Kauai.

There is a concern over a staircase and deck built by Mr. Rivera for the purpose of having a safe area for our visitors to view a specific waterfall. Well, that is the point, "a safe area" for our visitors! I do not think Mr. Rivera had the intent of destroying any foliage or

P.O. Box 1254 destroy the surrounding area. When found that such a structure was not allowed Mr. Rivera, complied with concerned parties and removed every piece of wood, nail, foundation, and all foreign material out of the area, as was shown in the video taken that

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morning with a commissioner. The complaints of Mr. Branch Harmony and the “farmer guy” are unfounded.

My grandparents came from the Philippines in the late 1800's to work the sugarcane fields in Koloa. My father was born and raised in Koloa. My brothers and sisters were born in Lihue and we were all raised in Koloa. We lived in the plantation camp approximately ¼ mi. from Waita Reservoir. There are trails all over the area unbeknownst to anyone not familiar with Waita and the surrounding land up to Mt. Waialeale through Huleia River. I trekked those areas in my youth. At times not knowing, my friends and I walked through the bush and ended up on the other side of the mountain close to Puhi. We passed through the Plantation tunnel and we would swim in the waterways. My point is, Mr. Branch Harmony and the “farmer” cannot pin point what trails exist and which ones do not exist and how would they know that Mr. Rivera is cutting “new” trails.

We as a community based organization humbly ask the board to please review Kauai ATV Tours actions with kindness. Kauai ATV and Mr. Olie Rivera have been diligent in their dealings with the landlord, Grove Farm Co., the County of Kauai, and the State of Hawaii. If not for their efforts our Na Opio program would not be successful. Our next step to further enhance the culture is to bring our all wood (koa canoe) to Waita Reservoir. There is no other place we would want to go and launch our koa canoe than Waita. Here we will teach the children of the land, the canoe, and our ohana.

In closing, our plea to the board would be to allow Kauai ATV continue its efforts in helping our economy and our culture.

Sincerely,

Sa'le and Ruth Potts

And the Ohana of Koloa Hawaiian Outrigger Canoe Club.

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Koloa, Kauai

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