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Aloha,

STATE OF HAWAII
LAND USE COMMISSION

My name is Kaulana Smith and I am writing to support the 'Ohana Rivera and their environmental commitment to the County of Kaua'i, Grove Farm, and the lands surrounding the Waita Reservoir. I have known the Riveras for over 5 years and know of Olegario's humble upbringing in the lush mountains in South America. I admire the courage of Anne Rivera as she traveled from the comforts of California and lived a very simple life with Ole and his family in the Amazon Rainforest. Their stories remind me of the simplicity that we as Hawaiians cherish and strive to keep in this 21st century.

I have no doubt in my mind and heart that the Riveras have assumed the role and responsibility as stewards of the land, water, and its surrounding habitat that Grove Farm has granted access. Andre and Marleny Cotrim have practiced protocol and respect as they seek guidance and mana'o from maka'ainana in much of the interaction with the land and water in the shadow of Ha'upu. As a family, the Riveras "do their homework" when it comes to the delicate balance of island living, ensuring that they malama 'aina, care for the land.

Mahalo nui,

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